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First History of Nelson, B. C.

WITH SKETCHES OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT CITIZENS, FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS

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A History of Nelson and West Kootenay

By CHARLES St. BARBE

(see criticism by Thos Collins on p 8)

In a new country events march apace. In the older regions of the world towns and villages take centuries to reach a stage, which is accomplished by western towns in a few years. There are scores of places not only in England, but in eastern America that are immeasurably behind the towns of Kootenay in civilization though they have had hundreds of years to grow. The moss is too thick alike on their roofs and on the ideas of their inhabitants. In the west all is different, and though at first a settlement may consist only of tents, rough shacks or cumbersome log cabins, if there is any reason at all for its existence, it soon emerges from its chrysalis form and takes on itself all the fine plumage of a modern city. "If there is any reason for its existence at all." That is a question the early settlers seldom trouble about, or if they do, they lack the faculty of what may be called economic prophecy, the power of taking in all the possibilities and requirements of an undeveloped district. Thus it is that so many townsites launched with a boom and a bang go out quickly with a fizzle. All the bragging of promoters, all the advertising in the world, and all the energies of interested people will not make a townsite stick where there is no material reason for its existence.

There is so little flat land in Kootenay that men have located themselves and attempted to establish a town at almost every available spot. Very few of these settlements have taken root. On the other hand some, like Sandon for instance, have grown out of sheer necessity and in spite of the total unfitness of the location for becoming the dwelling place of hundreds of people.

Fortunately Nelson owes the section of its site to no blind chance. We are told that Rome was not built in a day, but history is silent as to the time occupied over the choice of its site. It took many days to choose a suitable position for the capital of Kootenay, and it speaks well for the keen foresight of its locator, Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat, that every day and every fresh development proves the correctness of his choice.

In the history of a neighboring town, already written and published in this series, the writer assumes the role of prophet in addition to that of historian. He states that the town of which he writes is destined to be the largest in the interior of the Province of British Columbia. Unfortunately we know nothing of the tricks of the prophet business, but in face of the fact that Cariboo, Cassiar, Okanogan, East Kootenay and Big Bend are as yet undeveloped, the statement would appear to be somewhat rash. Doubtless the prophet will be quite prepared to back his opinion with coin of the realm, but life is short, British Columbia is large, and the future is long, so we must content ourselves with stating the historical fact that Nelson was founded by Mr. Sproat in 1888 as the capital of Kootenay, it was named after the then lieutenant-governor of the Province, and it has remained the capital ever since.

No history of Nelson, or indeed of any part of British Columbia would be complete without some notice of Mr. Sproat. He was born in Scotland and came out to Vancouver Island many years ago in the service of the Andersons, the great ship owners of England. His mission was connected with the supply of timber, especially "sticks" for masts and yards from the famous forests of the Pacific coast. After leaving the service of Messrs. Anderson Mr. Sproat became Indian commissioner for the Dominion government and also for some time represented the Province in London as its agent-general. Always of a literary turn, his letters to the London "Times" and other papers materially aided in turning public attention to this country at a time when cabinet ministers in England were searching maps of South America to discuss the whereabouts of British Columbia. Frequently employed by the government on various missions and latterly as gold commissioner of Kootenay Mr. Sproat's fine presence and handsome face are well known throughout the Province, while his herculean frame bears out the truth of the many stories of his prowess with which the country rings. As long ago as 1884 Mr. Sproat had been sent up to Kootenay lake to report on the minerals of the district the fame of which had just reached Victoria. At that time the Slocan as a mining country was unknown. Trail Creek was traversed only by the trapper who possibly had rich gold ore for the floor of his tent without knowing it, the great Kootenay bonanza outcrop upon the top of Toad mountain had probably never been gazed upon by human eyes. The germ from which the mining activity of West Kootenay began was undoubtedly the large deposit of galena on the eastern shore of Kootenay lake which is now covered by the Blue Bell and other claims. From there the discoveries soon spread and naturally enough the first locality to yield up its secrets was the opposite shore of the lake where Ainsworth now stands. This district was originally known as the Hot Springs camp, taking its name from the chalybeate springs issuing from the hill side a few feet above the beach. The Blue Bell deposit was described in the journal of David Douglas as long ago as 1815. Douglas was sent out by a Scottish society on a scientific mission to the Northwest and incidentally gave his name to the famous tree that is a characteristic of the Pacific coast. As it is possible that these lines may fall in the way of strangers unacquainted with the hoary legends of the district there may be some excuse for once more reciting how from the earliest times the Indians and the hunters of the Hudson's Bay company used actually to melt down the galena from the Blue Bell outcrop in order to make their bullets. The remains of an ancient furnace, which was no doubt used by those almost prehistoric miners, exist today just at the beach of the Blue Bell mine.

1825?

An extract from Mr. Sproat's report is characteristic at once of the time, the place, and the man. It runs: "It (Kootenay lake) looks a mining region but prospecting for gold has not been very successful hitherto. The old galena ledge on the east side (the Blue Bell) which contains moderate quantities of silver has again attracted attention owing to the approach of railways to the district, and perhaps more largely owing to improvements in the process of separating the silver from the lead which creates hopes that such low grade ore may now be handled profitably. Galena ledges, supposed to be silver bearing, have been discovered last year (1883) on the west side of the lake. Practical men who have been sent to examine the region generally, and have spent several months in exploring, have been satisfied with its promising character. Almost everybody who was employed at Kootenay lake in 1883 has what he considers to be a silver bearing galena claim. Half a dozen men regard themselves already as Comstock millionaires. There is nothing in the facts as yet to justify any such belief."

When Mr. Sproat says that prospecting for gold had not been very successful, he was speaking of Kootenay lake proper. But many years ago probably thirty or forty there was a kind of miniature Klondyke excitement at Forty-Nine creek which runs into the Kootenay river some nine miles below Nelson. There are few men alive to tell of this incident, but living on the ground still is an old man named Diegan who if not actually on the creek at the height of its prosperity, yet heard the tales of its richness at first hand. The creek still contains gold and its bed is being worked by modern hydraulic machinery.

At the time of the report from which

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a quotation has been made the only practicable routes into Kootenay were from the American side. The famous Dewdney trail indeed existed but its maintenance had been neglected and it had become impassible. There were two main routes of trade into the country. One was from Missoula in Montana through the Tobacco plains to Wild Horse creek on the upper country, where there were rich placer claims. The length of this trail was about 200 miles. The other was from Walla Walla and other places to Sand Point on Lake Pend d'Oreille in Idaho, to Joseph's Prairie or Wild Horse, a distance of 165 miles. Mr. Sproat himself opened up the route to Nelson up the Columbia river to the mouth of the Kootenay, where the locality is still known as Sproat's Landing and thence by the old trail up the Kootenay river to Nelson.

In order to understand the wisdom of Mr. Sproat's selection of the site for his capital it is necessary to understand something of the geography of the country. The Arrow lakes, which are part of the Columbia river lie about 200 miles west of the Rocky mountains. Down these beautiful lakes navigation is possible from Revelstoke on the north to Northport in the state of Washington a distance of 250 miles. Between the Arrow lakes and the Rockies, and parallel to both, lies the Kootenay lake embosomed in the Selkirk ranges which rise in craggy peaks to a height of 10,000 feet. In early days this lake was called Flat Bow lake. From the west side of Kootenay lake issues its west arm or outlet navigable for 20 miles to where Nelson now stands. About a mile below Nelson the outlet becomes a rapid river falling about 350 feet in its journey of 25 miles to join the Columbia. Southwards from Nelson ascends a valley, known as Cottonwood Smith creek, (though the Smith is usually dropped) which communicates by a low pass with the Salmon river the valley of which leads down to the fertile plains of Washington and affords facilities for communication with the entire railway system of the United States. In 1893 Mr. Corbin, the president of the Spokane Falls & Northern railway extended his line under the name of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway, by this route to Nelson. Before this the Columbia & Kootenay railway had built their line in from Robson on the Columbia river so that Nelson has the unique advantages of perfect water communication with all the magnificent mineral country bordering on the Kootenay lake including the towns of Balfour, Kaslo, Ainsworth, Pilot Bay, Sanca, and last but not least Bonner's Ferry in the state of Idaho, a station on the main line of the Great Northern railway. She has as we have already seen direct rail communication with Spokane and thence with the whole of the United States. She has her railway to Robson communicating with all the magnificent waterways of the Columbia river on which the splendid steamers of the Canadian Pacific railway transport whole trains from the main line of that great system, so that the goods reach Nelson without being transferred. In addition to all this which one would almost deem sufficient to ensure the prosperity of a town the Crow's Nest Pass line is now being pushed on with all possible speed to its terminus at Nelson and the Canadian Pacific railway is building a line up the Slocan river which will bring all that rich mining region within two or three hours of Nelson. Truly that blue eyed Scotsman who stood on the hillside and looked down on the densely wooded flat where Nelson now stands knew what he was about when he declared it to be the site for the capital of Kootenay.

The actual site of the town is where the valley of the Cottonwood broadens out and descends in a succession of benches to its junction with the Kootenay river. At the time of the founding of the city these terraces and benches were covered with a dense growth of timber. Only one man had penetrated it for any distance. He was an old trapper named Martin Fry and he has often declared that the bush was the densest in the country.

The cause which first brought people to Nelson was the discovery of the great deposit of silver bearing ore on Toad mountain. This was made in 1886 by Messrs. Hall and Oakes. Messrs. Hall and Oakes with two companions named White and Miller came in during the autumn to prospect for placer ground in the Salmon river. Now although Hall creek and one or two other tributaries of the Salmon river do actually head upon Toad mountain there is nothing within several miles of their sources to attract placer miners and various theories have been started to account for their presence on a mountain several thousand feet above any ground that they were searching for. That they lost their horses is a plausible one and may fairly be accepted. Anyhow on that trip they came across the outcrop of the Kootenay bonanza and took out with them a sample weighing about 30 pounds.

In those days this district was more remote almost than the Klondyke is now, so little was it visited that the Hall party did not even take the trouble to stake their claim. Had they done so, indeed, they would have had to go to Donald to record it, a journey of some 300 miles. They therefore trusted in the loneliness of the situation and literally left millions lying about on the top of a hill until they might think it worth while to come back and stake it. The result of the assay of the sample they took out showed them that the thing was too good to lose, and early in the spring of 1887 they came back and staked off four claims, the Silver King, the Kootenay Bonanza, the American Flag and the Kohinoor.

The fame of this discovery, which by way of development, has in no wise diminished, was sufficient to attract some of that floating, shifting population that roams throughout the mining regions of the northwest, and in 1887 there were some three or four hundred people camped upon the banks of Ward creek a little streamlet which runs through the middle of the town.

This was the state of affairs found by Mr. Sproat upon his visit in 1887. Upon receiving his report he was instructed by the government to "go ahead," to do what he pleased. He thereupon set to work to make his city and with the aid of a piece of rope which he used in some mysterious manner unknown to the science and art of surveying he laid off a portion of what is now Vernon street. In October 1888 the first sale of lots took place. In 1889 Mr. A. S. Farwell came and completed the survey of the town.

It requires some sketch of imagination to conjure up a picture of Nelson as she was in the latter eighties. Not ten years ago, and yet almost more remote than as many decades in the older world. The first settlers established themselves on the banks of Ward creek. Here a little clearing was made along the lake front and back as far perhaps as where Baker street is today. Beyond was a dense thicket of pines and firs. Even after the survey was made it was a serious business to go and look for a lot on Victoria street. In this clearing were gathered a handful of people, dwelling mostly in tents, attracted by the silver magnet on Toad mountain. The first house actually built in Nelson was a log cabin put up by Arthur Bunting, a son-in-law of old Dick Fry. It stood some fifty yards west to the approach to the government wharf and was demolished only about a fortnight ago (August 1897) to make room for the new line of railway connecting the two railway stations. The logs of which it was built are still lying where the workmen threw them, and they might easily be collected and put together somewhere else. Even now, the first house built in Nelson is something of a curiosity, and in years to come it will be much prized. The second house was Hume's store alluded to further on, and the third was an hotel, also built of logs, erected by John F. Ward on what is now lot 1, block 1, at present vacant at the corner of Vernon and Ward streets. Some of the logs of which this house was built are still lying on the ground. Mr. Ward also had a large tent which served as a boarding house. It stood near where Captain Fitzstubbs' garden now is on the government block. Mr. Ward gave his name to the creek and to the street which leads (more or less) up its course, while the next street on the east, Josephine street, is called after Mrs. Ward. Besides Ward's hotel on that corner lot there was a little house built of shakes in which Mr. Giffin now registrar of the supreme court carried out his various duties as mining recorder, constable and all the other official positions that are 'rolled into one' in a new camp. If a history of Mr. Giffin could be written it would be a deal more interesting than any story of the founding of a modern

town. Mr. Giffin left his home in Ontario and rode across the continent to California in the early days of the great '49 rush, and afterwards came north during the Cariboo excitement in the fifties. 'Sometimes of an evening, over a pipe, those who are privileged to be admitted as cronies of the old gentleman are treated to stories of adventures with wild animals, sharp encounters with Indians and marvelous tales of gold finding, by the man himself who was the chief actor in them.

Between the hotel and the government office 'Jim' Gilker squeezed in a store in which he commenced that business which he still carries on today and which it is to be hoped has resulted in filling his pockets. If indeed his funds have increased as his popularity has he is rich indeed. Close by on the same site where he afterwards erected commodious business premises J. Fred Hume, who represents the district in the Provincial parliament, had a little log built store. Three other prominent pioneers are still among us, Messrs. R. E. Lemon, G. A. Bigelow and A. J. Marks. The latter with Mr. Van Ness started the first prominent hotel in town which stands today as the well known Nelson hotel. Mr. Van Ness remained with Nelson until the rush to Rossland in 1895 when the attraction of the Trail Creek camp was too strong for him and he went there and built the War Eagle hotel. Mr. Marks continued at his old stand until a few months ago when he sold out to Mr. White, a new comer from Manitoba. Mr. Lemon gave up his business as a merchant and storekeeper last year and is now in business as a mining broker. Mr. Bigelow, who is a justice of the peace, has also retired from his original business as a storekeeper and is wooing fortune in eastern Kootenay. As soon as there was any business to be done in real estate the man was found to do it in the person of Mr. Harold Selous who came in in 1889. He had just returned from a trip down the Yukon, an almost unprecedented journey in those days. Mr. Selous and his party wintered at the mouth of Forty Mile creek and suffered great privations from the lack of proper food. The first job he undertook was a contract to clear out a gravel bank in the Kootenay river about a mile below Nelson. An English company which is still in existence had large grants of land in the upper valleys of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers, and it was thought that if the outlet of the Kootenay river could be enlarged, the company's lands along the river between the international boundary and the head of the lake could be freed from the annual innundation which in the spring covers them with water to the depth of several feet. Accordingly a contract for the work was let to Mr. Selous, but whether the company erred in its calculations or did not reckon on all the factors, the work was practically useless. The company has now abandoned the idea and is proceeding with its plans by means of vast dykes round the land, but these have not yet proved successful either. The manager of the company at that time was Mr. Baillie-Grohman who has a world wide celebrity as a writer on sport. He has now left this country and is living in his ancestral castle in the Tyrol. Mr. George Alexander of Kaslo is the present manager and it is to be hoped that his efforts to bring this land under settlement will be successful. In a country of mountains to which all vegetables and farm product have to be brought from great distances, it is a pity that those thousands of acres of splendid land cannot be utilized.

Canada is a large country and even now it is exceedingly difficult to attract attention of the post office authorities. This department which broods over the land like some huge monster keeps its brain at Ottawa, 2,000 miles away. In those days although there was a post office, kept, as it still is, by 'Jim' Gilker, Her Majesty's mails were left to get themselves into the country and out of it the best way they could. They came down the Kootenay valley by pack train and then trusted to what craft they might find for their conveyance down the lake and river, some seventy miles to Nelson. For a long time this service was carried out, gratuitously, by Dr. Hendryx in his steamboat "Galena." This old boat, the pioneer of the steam fleet on Kootenay lake, was sunk in Pilot Bay during the memorable gale of 1894. Only last week she was towed across to Kaslo to have some necessary repairs made when it was found that she was too rotten to do anything to. She was accordingly broken up and her engines, at one time the pride of the lake have been bought by a bottling merchant. Thus the first house and the first steamboat disappeared within a few days of each other. Her owner, Dr. Hendryx, though not much connected with Nelson was a notable figure in the opening up of the district, and the camp in which the Blue Bell is situated is named after him. Dr. Hendryx bought the Blue Bell mine in 1884 and set himself to work with characteristic energy to develop it. The property, as is well known, contains a huge ledge of low grade ore and at present is shut down. Part of Dr. Hendryx's scheme was the erection of the smelter at Pilot Bay, but he severed his connection with the company before its completion in 1894. His brother, Mr. A. B. Hendryx, who represented a wealthy syndicate of Americans, finished the work and it was started in March 1895, having cost first and last, together with the Blue Bell mine some $750,000. It ran with occasional stoppages for about two years, but has since been shut down and the smelter itself has passed into the hands of the Messrs. Braden Bros. of Helena, Montana. The works consist of a 100 ton concentrator, four roasting furnaces and a water jacket blast furnace. It is understood that the new owners will increase the capacity before commencing active operations.

The indulgence of the reader is craved for the erratic course of this history. Instead of keeping to its one subject and proceeding in proper chronological order, it wanders all over Kootenay and mixes up yesterday with ten years ago in a most unseemingly manner. But it must e'en be allowed to "gang its ain gait."

It was mentioned just now, before we wandered away to Pilot Bay, that the mails were uncertain in the old days. There was then no method of attracting the attention of the post office people to the matter, but in 1890 a notable event occurred. The Miner newspaper was established by Messrs. Houston and Ink, the latter of whom still continues in journalism as one of the proprietors of the Tribune.

The Miner made its first bow to the public on the 21 June, 1890, and justly claims the position of the oldest paper in Kootenay and the first mining paper in British Columbia. Its first number is exceedingly interesting and is an historic document of no little value. It contains "A Short Sketch of Nelson," giving the names of many of the chief business people. Besides those we have already mentioned, in this first "Domesday Book" of the town we find E. S. Topping who afterwards became famous as the owner of the town of Trail and now is exploiting the riches of Deer Park. He has somehow picked up the title of "Colonel" in the transition, for which the reason is not obvious.

On another page of the first number of this paper there are notices of "The Oldest Town on the Lake" and of "Kootenay's Youngest Metropolis." The first of these of course was Ainsworth, the site of which was purchased in 1883 by George J. Ainsworth of Oakland, California. The youngest metropolis was Sproat. This was the landing place on the Columbia river from which the trail to Nelson started. Some of Nelson's merchants were located there, notably Messrs. Lemon, Bigelow and Teetzel. The little place however soon ceased to exist and its inhabitants threw in their destinies with Nelson. Under the heading of "Another Smelter for Kootenay," the smelting furnace at Golden is described at length. This smelter was actually blown in, but nothing came of it and it is said that the charge was allowed to "freeze up." It can scarcely be said to have been more successful than its neighbor at Revelstoke which was never fired up at all. This latter building was put too near the Columbia river, which year by year has devoured large slices of the sandy bluff on which it stands so that a year or two at most will see it engulfed in the mighty stream.

Dick Fry of Bonner's Ferry had located several extensions of the Hall's Silver King group on Toad mountain, but in 1890 the locations ran out by reason of his failure to do the assessment work, and the ground was promptly restaked by Michael Kealey who is very well known in Nelson today. The claims he staked were the 'Daisy,' the 'Yankee Girl' and the 'Silver Bell.' Meanwhile the Queen

Victoria, a copper claim on the north side of the river about seven miles below the town, was bonded by San Francisco parties for $50,000 and about two tons were sent away to the California capital for a mill test. No wonder there was a rush for silver properties as the price of the white metal then is quoted at $1.04, lead was $4.50 and copper was $16.60 per 100 pounds.

At the present time crowds of people go to Ward's Crossing to camp out and fish. Few if any care to find out the meaning of the name. But Tom Ward is still with us and if he is on Baker street you will be able to pick him out from the crowd for he is the tallest among many tall men and if you cannot see him, you will soon hear him. His voice is marvellous and many have been glad to hear its answering shout across the dark warters on a winter's night at the ferry. It was there that the old trail crossed the river and on the south bank Tom had an hotel where weary travelers could find rest and inward comfort for man and beast. Although early in ninety Baker street began to put itself into shape, there was a healthy growth of brush in the roadway and the gulch through which Ward creek runs was as yet unbridged. A contract for this work was let in June and in the successful tenders we find another pioneer, Mr. G. O. Buchanan, who then had a sawmill about eighteen miles up the lake. The mill stood there until the big flood of 1894 when it came quietly floating down and was secured by N. Hoover. He towed it on his beach close by the powder magizine where parts of it still remain. Mr. Buchanan who by the way ran for the constituency in the government interest at the last Provincial elections has now removed his mill to Kaslo where he has one of the finest establishments in the district. Newland Hoover was, together with his neighbor across the water, T. Collins, a pioneer prospector of the district. About this time the beginnings of the Nelson Sawmill company were laid by M. S. Davys, now superintendent of the Silver King mine and John Tolson. At a sale of lots held in 1890 at which Mr. Giffin was auctioneer and H. Selous took in the cash the sum of $9,515 was realized for thirty-two lots, which thus averaged nearly $295 each. Among the names of the buyers we find H. V. Rudd whose genial face was for long familiar to the public framed in the post office window. Mr. Rudd now enjoys an important position in the service of the Hall Mines. At this period Mr. Tunstall was government agent for Kootenay with a head office at Revelstoke, or Farwell as the old town used to be called. Mr. Ward Spinks, judge of the county court, was the first judicial dignitary to arrive in Nelson. He held his first criminal trial on the 10th July when Tom Brady was sentenced to 18 months hard labor for cutting and wounding Billy Gorman.

The Nelson jail has always been celebrated for the freedom with which prisoners took their leave when they were tired of their sojourn therein. This used to be attributed to the execrable nature of the cooking but there may have been other reasons. The first escape on the list, which culminated the other day in the flight of the man Woods, who was brought back convicted of murder and hanged, was attempted by this man Brady. He was hotly pursued by Mr. Giffin aided by Harold Selous. The former fired a shot at the fugitive which had the effect of stopping him and he was speedily recaptured.

The success of the town of Nelson induced others to take up pre-emptions adjoining the town proper, and thus we have the Hoover addition which is now one of the chief residential districts and the Hume addition in which lots are selling readily at moderate prices, and Bogus town. This latter in which, under the misleading title of "Nelson City," lots were sold to strangers, occupies a splendid site on Anderson's point. There the owners built a fine wharf which made an excellent bathing place, but was never used for anything else, and fell a victim to the flood of 1894. The terminus of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway is situated in Bogus town which really deserves a better name. Had its owners chosen a reasonable name for it instead of attempting to 'jump' the title of Nelson proper, it would probably have paid them better. There is a certain kind of sharpness that is not good business.

In this same year (1890) the railway from Robson was making active progress toward Nelson and in the spring of 1891 the first regular train ran through. At the same time the steamer "Nelson" was built and launched by the Columbia & Kootenay Navigation Co. She is as good today as when she was built and has played a very important part in the development of the country. The company which owned her, of which Mr. J. A. Mara was president, has always been ready to supply and demand that has sprung up from time to time for increased transportation facilities on the great inland water systems of British Columbia. Their magnificent boats 'Nakusp' and 'Kootenay' on the Columbia and the 'Kokanee' on Kootenay lake are a pleasant surprise to travelers from a distance who look forward to discomfort as the only feature of inland navigation. No doubt the company owes its prestige, and the public their comfort to Captain J. W. Troup the superintendent of the company. The whole concern has just passed into the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., and they have been wise enough to include Captain Troup in the bargain. The men commanding the steamers are actually well known and are celebrated like their salt water brethren for good fellowship and cordiality. Captain Hayward who used to command the Nelson has now gone into the service of the opposition company and commands the "Alberta" under which name the old 'Idaho' plows the main. Captain McMorris of the Kokanee and Captain Gore of the Nakusp are two men than whom none are better known throughout the district. The latter has a reputation for being the best fast water pilot, (next to Captain Troup) in the northwest.

To the same men who started the navigation company, Nelson owes her water works. If these have come to be quite inadequate at the present day, it is not their fault. The town would grow and the simple little supply that was a fine thing in 1891 could not hope to meet Nelson's necessities in 1897. The company which Mr. F. S. Barnard formed in 1891 assumed the curious title of the "Consumers' Water Works company." To an ordinary observer it would seem that the shareholders owned the company and the consumers were their slaves, at least that is the ordinary way with water companies. But here the name at least implies otherwise. The first "consumers" according to their act of incorporation were: J. A. Gilker, J. F. Hume, C. H. Ink, W. F. Teetzel, M. D. Mahony, W. J. Wilson and F. S. Barnard, and it speaks well for their teetotal habits that they paraded themselves before the world as being so fond of consuming water that they wanted a whole company to themselves.

In the same year the Nelson Electric Light company was started, but did nothing until last year when a system of house lighting was installed. Though a great convenience it is quite inadequate to its work, the town having grown considerably since its installation. The year 1891 saw also the formation of a fire company, and opening of telephonic communication between various points on the lake. There was a public school in Nelson then in charge of Miss Rath, and Captain Napoleon Fitzstubbs represented the government as their agent and gold commissioner. There were three churches, an English church under the Rev. Mr. Reid, a Presbyterian church under the Rev. Mr. Rogers and a Methodist church under the Rev. Mr. Turner. The first bank was a branch of the Bank of Montreal which was opened 2nd January, 1892. Mr. A. H. Buchanan, the present manager, had come in by way of Spokane a few days before on snowshoes, bringing with him the enormous capital of $11.50 with which to start a branch of the largest bank in America. Today when we see ponderous safes requiring many men and horses to move them a few yards, and huge ledgers piled up on rows of desks it is wonderful to think of that one man coming in on snowshoes with just a handful of change in his pocket, but he did it and laid the foundation of the large business the bank does now. In March of the same year the Bank of British Columbia opened a branch under the management of Mr. A. F. Daly, who was succeeded by Mr. G. V. Holt whose ability and popularity has built up for his bank a business which will go far to make up for its losses 'on the other side.' Another of those old time financial men was Mr. Edward Applewhaite, who is still here, when he is not on one of his frequent business

trips to the old country. Messrs. Applewhaite & Allan carried on a private bank in connection with their real estate business. Mr. Allan soon retired and Mr. Applewhaite then carried on the business alone until he was joined last year by Mr. A. R. Sherwood.

Besides the Nelson hotel and the Lake View which was the name given by John F. Ward's successor to his old place, the town in 1892 boasted of the Phair hotel, justly celebrated as the best in the interior of British Columbia. The Tecumseh hotel (now the Clarke house) was also built about this time.

The Hudson's Bay company opened a store in 1892 in the same building in which it is now and in the previous year Carney & Barrett opened a butcher's shop. Albert Barrett afterwards went to Rossland where he has made a considerable amount of money in mining. W. F. Teetzel also transferred himself from Revelstoke to Nelson in the same year.

About this time also 'The Miner' was sold by its founders to Messrs. Bogle & Whalley, the latter of whom is still connected with several business enterprises in the city and also conducts an important department in the Hall Mines. Mr. Bogle became afterwards identified with various budding newspaper enterprises in the district and latterly took to mining and has, it is reported, made a fortune for himself.

The discovery of mineral in the Slocan country by Eli Carpenter in 1891, quickly followed by the splendid finds made and located by J. L. Seaton, W. F. and J. J. Hennessey, J. G. McGuigan and F. W. Flint, the "Noble Five" brought the country to its feet. For the moment Toad mountain, Ainsworth and the Hendryx camp were forgotton, everyone poured into the "Silver Slocan." There were no roads leading into the new district, but trails were quickly pushed in over the three available passes; from Nakusp on the north, Kaslo on the east and up the valley of the Slocan river from the south. Nelson might probably have served her own interests best, if she had forced a way up Yuill creek, but she was busy with her own affairs or was content with the Slocan river trail. These three trails are now the routes of railways, the last to be made being the one up Slocan river, the easiest of the lot. But the merchants of Nelson were not slow to avail themselves of the new market opened for their goods and R. E. Lemon established a branch store at Three Forks, which was then the central point of the Slocan. The government laid out a town on an extensive flat at the mouth of Carpenter creek, and called it New Denver. It is probably the best site in Kootenay and should some day be a fine city but for the present the eager crowd, only happy at the very month of the mine and has squeezed itself into the worst possible situation for a town at Sandon. In spite of her distance from the mines, Nelson, thanks to the energy of her merchants, benefitted largely by the newly opened district, and was proportionaly injured by the terrible 'slump' in silver in 1893.

For a time the fall in the price of her staple commodity almost paralyzed Kootenay, but her people were not of the sort to be knocked out at one blow. They soon recovered and again went to work with a will. It is pleasant here to be able to record of those in this uphill claim, British and Americans worked side by side, showing indeed that they are members of the same family and inheritors of the pluck and endurance which have for centuries been the characteristic of the parent race.

NELSON'S MINES.

First and foremost naturally comes the Silver King. Though as we have already related it is not the oldest in the district, it was from its first start more widely known than any other and was undoubtedly the first flash that attracted the eyes of the world to this country. The story of its early history has been told about in these pages. In 1893 Mr. H. E. Croasdaile who is now the general manager of the company, succeeded in floating a company in England to purchase and work the property. The difficulty of his undertaking may be measured when it is remembered that 1893 was the year of the fall in silver and as a matter of fact the Hall Mines, limited, was the only silver company floated in London that year. The plucky individuals who put their money into the scheme have had no cause to regret it. For some time the new company devoted itself almost entirely to development work making extensive use of prospecting drills run by compressed air. By their aid the ground was surveyed to a depth of some 1,000 feet below the surface and most satisfactory proofs afforded of the continuity and richness of the ore. Acting upon this information an active policy was entered upon in 1895, and almost simultaneously a change of managers was made. Mr. M. S. Davys, well known throughout the Province and a pioneer of Nelson taking the place of Mr. J. J. Jordan. Mr. Davys, if we mistake not, originally had an assay outfit in that little log cabin which was the first in Nelson. The first question that arose upon the imagination of the new policy was transport, and upon this, in a measure the site of the company's smelter depended, because it could only be at that spot to which the ore could be brought. After many trials and suggestions a wire rope tramway known as the Hallidie system and manufactured by the California Wire Works Co. of San Francisco was decided upon and Mr. Parsons, the superintendent of the company came in to supervise the erection of the plant. In passing it may be mentioned that the Mr. Hallidie who gave his name to the system was not unknown to the Province, as it was he who built the famous suspension bridge across the Fraser on the old Cariboo road. The difficulties Mr. Parsons had to contend with were by no means light. The survey for the tramway showed the distance to be 4½ miles and the height of the mine above the smelter site 4,800 feet. Crossing its line was the canyon of Giveout creek necessitating a long span without supports. All of these troubles were overcome and the tramway as erected was the longest in the world upon that system. It acts entirely by gravity, the full buckets descending hauling up the empty ones. But the strain was too great. Four miles and a half of buckets holding one hundred pounds of ore each hauling along a distance of almost a mile in sheer descent was more than ordinary iron could stand, so the tramway was eventually cut in two with a loading station half way down. Since then it has worked with entire satisfaction bringing down about ten tons an hour with ease. During the autumn of 1895 the smelter was erected under the supervision of Mr. Paul Johnson, a "smelter man" of great reputation. He has left the service of the Hall Mines now, but the reputation he carries with him to his new home in Mexico cannot but be vastly increased by the success with which he built and worked the Nelson smelter. The first furnace which was an ordinary water jacket made by Fraser and Chalmers was blown in in January 1896 and with occasional intervals worked until the erection of its enormous neighbor completed some weeks ago. This, which is also a water jacket, is the largest in the northwest, if indeed not in the world. Its crucible measures 144 inches by 54 and it can put through some 250 tons of ore a day besides coke and lime and other fluxings. At first the company was satisfied with turning out matte, containing some 48 or 49 per cent. of copper and silver, but during the past summer it put up a refinery consisting of reverbatory and roasting furnaces which produce 'blister' copper containing 98 per cent. of copper besides gold and silver. The first train load of this product was recently shipped by the C. P. R. to Montreal en route for Liverpool to Swansea where by the electrotytic process its valuable component parts, gold, silver and copper will be again separated. Mr. Robert Hedley succeeded Mr. Johnson as superintendent of the smelter, and as he has had large experience in many parts of the world there is no reason that under his guidance the company should not safely glide on to that culmination of success, a dividend.

It is a curious fact that though the whole of Toad mountain and the surrounding hills have been most carefully prospected and the ground is literally covered with claims no other deposit or vein of ore similar to that of the Silver King has ever been discovered. But the neighborhood fortunately contains other ores of great value and the result is that many mines exist on every side of the range. In fact the whole country from Nelson on the north to the junction of the Pend d'Oreille and the Columbia on the south is full of mineral, which by the way is not confined to this block

but extends across the Kootenay on the west and across the Salmon river on the east until no one knows where it ends. To describe even the history of the discovery of even the principal claims in this vast tract of land would require volumes and though the whole of it is tributary to Nelson, we must confine ourselves to an account of one or two of the better known mines close to the city.

The oldest of these is probably the Poorman. It is situated on Eagle creek an affluent of the Kootenay river about four miles below Nelson. In 1890 this property was owned by Messrs. Hussey and Davenport but some two or three years ago passed entirely into the hands of the latter. The claim and its neighbors contain a vein of free milling gold ore for the reduction of which a ten stamp mill was erected several years ago and has been running ever since during such seasons of the year as there was sufficient water in the creek to drive the mill. In addition to the stamps four Frue vanners were employed to concentrate the tailings. The mine being private property, its product has always been a matter of conjecture, but that some of its stone is extremely rich there is no doubt whatever. Following the example of many less worthy claims the Poorman has recently become an incorporated company.

Between the Poorman and the Forty Nine creek are many claims with ledges showing free milling gold, notably the Royal Canadian and the Majestic, while the samples from Forty Nine creek itself easily account for the rich gold that is found in the bed of the stream.

Close above Nelson is the Athabasca upon which a force of men is now at work. The company owns four claims of which the Athabasca is the one on which development is now being made. Three distinct ledges run through the property, upon one of which a shaft has been sunk for 100 feet, passing through ore all the way. At the bottom drifting has commenced on the vein. Several carloads of ore have been sent down to the Hall Mines smelter, and the returns ran from $75 to $160 to the ton. The ledges are quartz carrying sulphides. This property originally belonged to Mr. George Neelands who has several other claims in the neighborhood.

On both sides Giveout creek is covered with claims having rich outcrops, and going southward the country is still rich. On almost the last hill visible from Nelson the buildings of the Golden King are to be seen. Beyond that again commences the Salmon river valley where is North Fork, Quartz Creek, Wild Horse and others, not the least being its most northerly tributary Hall creek which has its source on Toad mountain just at the back of the Silver King group of claims. On hall creek is the Fern mine at which a ten stamp mill is now in course of erection. A large amount of development work has been done at the Fern disclosing a fine ledge which is said to assay high in free gold. This claim was originally the property of Mr. Frank Fletcher, the land agent of the Canadian Pacific railway at Nelson. It recently passed out of his possession into that of a body of capitalists represented by Mr. F. C. Innes of Vancouver by whom it has been turned into a joint stock company.

With the exception of the Silver King, the ore of which contains silver, copper and gold, the district immediately round Nelson affords no silver. Copper and gold are liberally sprinkled on all sides, and without for a moment intruding upon the prophetic function, it may be said that the district will be a producer of gold from free milling quartz and of copper.

THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

For a time after the fall in silver, which by the way is regarded in this country as an event of almost more importance than the fall of Adam, the town stood still, in spite of the fact that Mr. Corbin succeeded in pushing his railway in from Spokane. That he should have continued this work and carried it to a successful conclusion just at this point shows not only that he had confidence in the future of the country but that he had the pluck to back his opinions. The Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway was completed to Five Mile Point in the winter of '93-94, but many were the mishaps that it had to contend with before it reached the fine working order in which it is now. The country through which its tracks lay after leaving Northport in Washington was an exceedingly difficult one, and floods, mud blocks, and snow slides did all they could to obliterate man's handiwork from the face of nature. But the people of Kootenay though often detained for hours or even days on their journey soon forgot their troubles in the joy of having a railway that was open to them summer and winter, for until last year the trains between Robson and Nelson ran only in the summer. If sufficient time had been taken over the construction of the railway to ensure its immunity from these accidents, it would barely have been here yet, but as it is the defects have been remedied one by one, the line has been extended from Five Mile Point to the very gates of Nelson where it stopped only because further advance would have encroached on a charter of the C. P. R. The two lines are now however being joined and it is stated that a modus vivendi had been found by which the people of Nelson will enjoy the advantages of a station in a central position into which both lines will run. The Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway has also established a telegraph office in Nelson, connected with the Western Union system in the United States which is of the greatest service.

To describe minutely all the events that have happened during the past four years would require a volume and there is no room for them in this sketch, but there are many deserving of mention who stuck to the little place during those bad times when the face of a visitor was unseen during the winter months. Among these (and they have all weathered through the dark black years and are earning the reward of their steadfastness) is Jacob Dover, jeweller and watchmaker. From quite small quarters in the Houston block he has moved into a capacious and handsome store in the first brick building in Nelson erected only last year by Messrs. Clements and Hillyer. His neighbor in the same building is Mr. John A. Turner whose failure at the recent mayoralty election is much regretted by his many friends. Other familiar names that occur to one as Nelson's old timers are A. Shaw and Gilbert Stanley who side by side with James Neelands deal in groceries, stationery and tobacco. To Mr. Stanley until quite recently Nelson looked exclusively for its reading matter. A. T. Garland and Fred Irvine still attract the fair sex to their displays of finery that gladden the female heart, while just across the bridge May keeps the beard and hair of man in decent order. A little further on Farley and Traves, once partners, still side by side, provide groceries and meat to a hungry public. Skipping over 'Jim' Gilker who as postmaster and storekeeper (salesman too for that matter) is as popular as ever, Mr. Squire still clothes his patrons with suitable garments in the latest styles while they can find all the footwear they want at Graham's. For years two barbers were all that Nelson wanted and people who were not satisfied with May could go to Matheson's, but now there are others. These were the sturdy pioneers of the traders of Nelson, men who never lost hope and stuck to their businesses all through those dreary years. Naturally they were the first to feel the benefit when the revival came and other old timers will not forget them now or allow the memories of mutual help to fade away.

A stranger hearing Nelson men talk of events of three or four years ago might begin to wonder if they had not suddenly seen some passengers on Noah's famous ark. Events are spoken of as happening before or after the flood. In common parlance the events referred to by this name occurred some 4,000 years ago and if it did nothing else has supplied the most popular nursery toy that ever existed. But in Nelson and throughout British Columbia we had a flood of our own in 1894 that will live in men's memories for many a day. During the previous winter the snow fall had been unusually heavy and spring opened with a rush of fine balmy weather that portended trouble. It soon came. Spring continued without a break and quickly became early summer, without any break at all, so that by the 24th of May the lake had risen to as great a height as any had previously known it and it was still coming up. On the Queen's birthday it rose just twelve inches, and people began to wonder when it would stop. It still continued until it reached the top notch on the 9th of June. By that time the water stood six feet deep at the C. P. R.

depot, the town wharf was completely submerged and the steamer landed their passengers among the little shacks to the westward. The water was much higher than the grade of the new line connecting the two stations and many painted records of the flood marks exist on the rocks at windy bluff. A few days before the water reached its height the last train left the C. P. R. depot. It did not come back for over three months. Many of the trestles along the line were afloat and part of the approaches to the Slocan bridge went out. On the 3rd of June a tremendous storm of wind, thunder and rain burst over the entire country. The wind was a hot one recalling the "brickfielders" of Adelaide to old Australians. This simply cut up the remaining snow and sent it hurtling down the gorges already in high flood. The result was that wherever a railway trestle or other bridge crossed the creek, it was washed out. Trees were flung in every direction across all the telegraph wires and Nelson was entirely cut off from any sort of communication with the outside for two weeks. The main line of the C. P. R. was destroyed in several places and whole train loads of people were stalled at North Bend, Revelstoke, Banff and other points. There they remained for three weeks. The worst of the storm was felt at Kaslo. The lower part of the town was already submerged in the flood and the violent sea sent sweeping up 50 or 60 miles from the extreme southern end of the lake, knocked all the houses it could reach into matchwood. In addition to to this the river, swollen with the suddenly melted snows from the mountains of the Slocan, took the town in the rear, cut out new channels for itself, and swept everything in its way, houses and all, out into the lake.

The elections for the Provincial parliament were held in 1894 and resulted in the return of Mr. J. Fred Hume who defeated Mr. G. O. Buchanan. Mr. Hume joined the ranks of the opposition in the house. In 1896 Mr. Hewitt Bostock was elected to represent the Yale-Cariboo district, in which Kootenay is included, in the Dominion parliament. In October 1895 their excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen paid a visit to Nelson, being the first time a governor-general has entered the district. Others have passed over the main line of the C. P. R. but have never troubled to visit the beautiful lakes lying to the south of it. Captain Napoleon Fitzstubbs, the government agent, has just been succeeded by Mr. O. G. Dennis erstwhile Provincil assessor at Kaslo. Mr. Dennis is a favorite with everybody and is in all other respects fit to take charge of the district. Mr. W. J. Goepel who was the mining recorder in the early days held that position and did also most of the gold commissioner's work until last year when he was promoted to the position of Provincial auditor. He was succeeded by Mr. G. H. Rashdall whose untimely death in January last caused a feeling of profound grief over the whole district. Mr. Rashdall's place is now filled by Mr. R. J. Tolmie, a very popular servant of the government who is well known in Victoria. A notable feature of the growth of Nelson are its churches, of which there are now four, all too small for their congregations. The English church services have hitherto been held in an unsuitable frame building, but now additional land has been procured and a proper church built of stone is shortly to be erected. This improvement is due to the energies of the vicar the Rev. H. S. Akehurst. The other clergymen in Nelson at present are the Rev. George Morden (Methodist) and the Rev. Louis Poitras (Roman Catholic.) The Presbyterian church being at present without a minister.

Though sometimes grumblings are heard at the ways of the railways themselves, nobody has anything but praise for Nelson's two station masters. A man may lose baggage, or be over charged for freight or may have his goods delayed for an excesive time on the way and go down to the station, foaming at the mouth, to see about it. Blood is in his eye and the sentences and threats he prepares on the way down would move mountains. He comes back quiet and subdued and happy. A civil answer turneth away wrath. And that is how they do it, these two men whose names are John Hamilton of the C. P. R. and Tackleburry of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard. This year the C. P. R. has made Kootenay into a district or division whatever the proper term may be with Mr. H. E. Beasley as superintendent.

In 1896 the boom at Trail Creek and the steady output of ore from the Slocan began to draw the attention of the world to Kootenay. The prospect of the immediate construction of the Crow's Nest Pass line to Nelson concentrated that attention on the capital. Her mines are no richer, and no new ones have been opened since then but Nelson has grown and increased marvelously. The reason is not far to seek. Every tie laid, and every spike driven bring all the mines of Kootenay nearer to Nelson's markets. It is the old story that has been going on all over the world ever since the invention of railways. Increased facilities of communication mean centralization and Nelson is the central point, the Rome of Kootenay, to which all roads lead. The first noticeable effect was the demand for good business lots on Baker street accentuated by the purchase of a lot by the Lawrence Hardware Co. and the erection thereon of a capacious store. Almost next door the Thomson Stationary Co. put up a building with two stores in it. They attempted to squeeze themselves into one at first but now have been obliged to oust their tenants, tear down the partition and make one large store of it. On the vacant lot next to them on the east John Johnson of the Silver King hotel built a capacious store with rooms over it forming part of his hotel. The store is now occupied by Hyde & Titsworth, dealers in fruit and greengrocery. The empty space on the other side of the Silver King did not remain long vacant, A. C. Buchanan, who came in from Vernon jumped in and built a store in which he dispenses groceries. Just opposite a great change has taken place. There used to be three little stores all by themselves in that block. Mr. George Neelands to whom they belonged has now pulled them down and built up a fine building on the site. But it is at each end of this block that the most important changes are being made. At the west end, opposite the Bank of Montreal, Mr. John Elliot has put up a fine brick building. The ground floor is occupied by two fine stores. The corner one has been taken by the Canadian Drug & Book Co., and the adjoining one by Mr. A. Ferland who is an old timer in British Columbia, having followed the construction of the C. P. R. westward from Calgary. Next to this building Mr. Mara is erecting another brick block which, judging from the progress so far made will be the handsomest building in town. At the east end of the block, E. Traves is building an enormous wooden structure, which with the large hotel being built by J. Fred Hume at the northeast corner of the same block give Ward street quite an imposing appearance. Diagonally opposite to Mr. Hume's hotel, the Grand Central hotel is just finished and open to the public. Farther along Vernon street to the westward the Lake View hotel stands, also just completed, at the corner of Vernon and Hall streets. Coming up the latter we find another large hotel 'The Queen's' just finished at the corner of Baker street. There should be ample accommodation now for Nelson's visitors which there certainly has not been in the past. Between the Nelson hotel and Ward street there is only half a lot left vacant the range of buildings being completed by Messrs. Turner and Boeckh's large edifice at the corner. Upon the other side of this same block Mr. Lund has almost rebuilt the Kootenay hotel and next door, at the corner of Josephine street A. Macdonald & Co. of Winnipeg have built a huge warehouse, probably the largest in the town. Two other wholesale firms that were among the new-comers are Turner, Beeton & Co., who purchased R. E. Lemon's old premises, and H. J. Evans & Co. who have squeezed themselves into part of the Carney Block. About a year ago some enterprising individuals from the Northwest put up a soda water factory in Nelson, just above Riesterer's brewery and recently Thorpe & Co., the well known manufacturers of aerated waters at Victoria have put up a factory on Vernon street. Besides the brick buildings already mentioned another is being put up by Mr. McKillop on Baker street nearly opposite the old Hudson's Bay store. Further along the street on the same side Mr. Goepel has built a fine block while across the way Mr. Mara and Mr. Applewhaite have continued Baker street right up to Kootenay street. It

would be impossible within the present limits to describe the new dwelling houses that are spreading themselves far up the hill sides and along the lake to Bogus town. The whole appearance of the town is changed by these extensions, with the serviceable sidewalks and neatly kept gardens.

In the spring of this year Nelson became an incorporated city by means of a special act which also included Rossland and Grand Forks. At the first elections Mr. Houston was elected mayor and Messrs. Fletcher, Dow, Teetzel, Gilker, Hillyer and Malone, aldermen. Since their election they have built a new bridge across Baker street gully and have extended the sidewalks in many directions. They have purchased the old water works for $5,000 and are now bringing in water from Anderson creek to a new reservoir at a much greater height than the old one. To do this they have raised a loan of $50,000 bearing five per cent. interest at 98, a pretty good evidence of the solidity of the town.

No doubt many people on reading these lines will notice various omissions, but we would ask them to bear in mind the impossibility of putting everything that has occurred in Nelson into so short a space. We break off now (with silver at 55, just half what it was when Nelson was founded) with perfect confidence in the future of Kootenay's capital.

CHARLES ST. BARBE.

Nelson, B. C., 14th Sept., 1897.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

With the beginning of letters the one subject most interesting to scholars was a record of the past. In our modern days all men read, and history continues the most absorbing theme. Pessimists claim that of all subjects history is the most uncertain. Optimistic writers would have us believe that time finally brings out the truth. It is certainly more satisfying to accept the optimistic view; but that the first history of any country or place can be made perfect is too much to expect. It was the desire of the publishers to give as correct a history of Nelson as a first history can reasonably be expected to be. Historical criticism was expected and is accepted by the publishers with thanks. They have, therefore decided to reprint the following from The Tribune of the 25th inst. They do so not only in the interest of the future historian, but, as well in recognition of the enterprise of The Tribune publishers, whose editor, in the very interesting article signed "Tom Collins," has made history as well as written it.

HISTORY WHAT IS HISTORY.

The present site of Nelson was first located by Arthur Bunting, a son-in-law of Dick Fry, in 1887. The government accepted Bunting's deposit upon the land, but in the meantime Sproat came along and declared that the land was covered by a government reserve, and that Bunting had no right to take it up. It was claimed that it was within the Ainsworth railway reserve, and although the company's charter had expired, the reserve had not been lifted. Having knocked Bunting out of the land, all other intending pre-emptors were kept out by staking the Bunting pre-emption as a government townsite reserve. That this was done without the knowledge of the department at Victoria is rather well known. Harry Anderson, who was mining recorder and constable for the district, made a location to the east of the Bunting ground, which was the first land surveyed in this neighborhood. The survey was made by C. W. Busk, of Balfour, and in running the lines he came across a stake, marked "Government Reserve," within the boundaries of the land that Anderson claimed. Busk made this reserve his boundary line, but in filing his field notes in the lands and works department at Victoria, reference therein to this "reserve" called forth much surprise from the officials, who said that they had no knowledge of any such reserve having been made. As Bunting was still claiming the present townsite of Nelson when Anderson took up his land, it always puzzled old timers to understand why the reserve crowded Bunting out, but could not crowd out Anderson. * * *

When the place got big enough to support a name, Harry Anderson, the mining recorder, called it Salisbury. By this name it was known for some time before Gilbert Malcolm Sproat came in to establish "his" capital. In records of mineral claims they were described as being so far from Salisbury. When Sproat got down here he did not pull very well with Anderson, and he commenced to undo what the recorder had done before his arrival. Among other things he decided to rename the place, which he did, calling it Stanley. Both men were bull-headed, and for a time the town was officially designated as Salisbury by the mining recorder, and Stanley by the gold commissioner. This feud between the two officials was carried on continuously, and resulted in the gold commissioner being let out in the winter of 1888-9. Sproat was succeeded as gold commissioner by G. C. Tunstall, who came down the Columbia in July, 1889. The town was called both Salisbury and Stanley for some time, until application was finally made by the residents for the establishment of a post office. In this application the place was called Stanley, and as there was already a post office of that name in Cariboo, the name of the place was changed to Nelson, in honor of Hugh Nelson, at that time lieutenant-governor of the province. * * *

The Miner was not the first mining paper in the Kootenay. The Donald Truth, started by John Houston in 1888, was something of a mining paper itself. I remember reading much mining news in The Truth relative to the Kootenay country, and know that The Truth was widely quoted by United States mining journals, extracts from The Truth appearing weekly in the Mining Press of San Francisco. * *

In 1885 the country was burnt over by forest fires, while Alex McLeod, now of Ainsworth, and others were placer mining on Forty-Nine creek. When Nelson was founded it was just as easy to get over on foot as it is today. There was much fallen timber, but there was very little underbrush.

* * * The circumstances connected with the discovery of the Silver King group of claims on Toad mountain were fresh in the minds of the men prospecting through here when I arrived, in June, 1888. A party made up of Winslow Hall and Osner Hall and their sons, and Billy White, Bill Miller, one of the Oakes family and an Indian were prospecting along the Salmon river, and its tributaries in 1886. Hall creek, one of these tributaries, heads up on Toad mountain, and there being good feed for their horses and plenty of water, the party made their camp on the mountain. The party had not been successful in finding anything, and it was announced by Winslow Hall, who was the leader of the party, that they would prospect one more day and if nothing was found, they would pull out for home. So that they could get away next day he told his son, Tommy Hall, and Billy White to get out and hunt up the horses. While thus engaged the boys came upon the outcrop of the Kootenay Bonanza. They picked up a piece of copper pyrites. They had do knowledge of what it was and mistook it for gold. Picking up several pieces, they started back for camp. On the way back they started some grouse, and Tommy Hall used up his specimens in throwing at them. White kept his specimens and showed them to the rest of the party in the camp. Next day a trip was made to the outcrop, and a number of specimens were taken to Colville. * * *

At the time of the location of the Silver King group no name was given to the mountain upon which the claims were located. The properties were described as being on the divide between Cottonwood Smith and Salmon creeks. The name Toad mountain was first given on July 27th, 1887, when Charlie Townsend and Ben Thomas were staking the Jim Crow, about one a half miles from the Silver King group. Townsend was sitting on a log about a foot from the ground writing the location notice. He had proceeded as far as the words "situate on," when a big warty toad jumped from under the log close by his feet, and seeing it Townsend filled in the words "Toad mountain" as the name of the mountain upon which the claims were located. No other name was given to the mountain until October 15th, when Thomas Morrow, better known as "Sandy" Morrow, recorded the Toughnut, and described it as being four miles west of Bonanza group, Mineral mountain. The next record in which Mineral mountain was mentioned describes the Porcupine claim,

located by N. Hoover and James Mackenzie on March 1st, 1888, which describes the claim as being "two and a half miles in a westerly direction from the Silver King mineral claim, Mineral mountain." All the important locations made in 1887 were either relocated or re-recorded in 1888, and described as being on Mineral mountain. * * * * *

Jim Fox, one of the locators of the Dandy mine, states that during the fall and winter of 1887-8, "Della" Fry, one of Martin Fry's sons, acted as mining recorder for the district up to the arrival of Henry Anderson. The same authority also states that Fry would not record assessment work, believing that he had not the power to do so. Claim owners therefore had to make records at Fort Steele or Revelstoke, several assessments being recorded at both places. Henry Anderson continued to act as mining recorder until a redivision of the mining districts was made. After this he was assigned to the Ainsworth district, and in the spring of 1889, T. H. Giffin, who was stationed at Donald as a constable, succeeded him as recorder of what was then called Toad Mountain district. * * * *

The first survey of the present townsite of Nelson was made by A. S. Farwell, and not by G. M. Sproat. It was made in the fall of 1888, and not in 1887 as stated by St. Barbe. In 1887 Bunting still claimed the townsite, and he did not scare off until 1888. In the fall of that year A. S. Farwell surveyed blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the north half of blocks 5, 6, 7 and 8. The first sale of lots took place in the latter part of October in a little shake shack, afterwards used as a recorder's office by T. H. Giffin, which stood on lot 2, block 1. At this sale Gold Commissioner Sproat presided, and Constable Jack Kirkup, now of Rossland, acted as auctioneer. During the following winter E. S. Topping continued to sell lots by private sale. In the following summer A. S. Farwell surveyed blocks 9 and 11 and the north half of blocks 10 and 12, and on his way out to the coast he made a preliminary survey of a wagon road from Nelson to Sproat's Landing. In 1890 the balance of the townsite was surveyed by a man named Latimer, after whom Latimer street was named.

* * * About the time that Farwell made his preliminary survey of a wagon road from Nelson to Sproat's Landing, the Canadian Pacific Railway company got its wires in shape for a land subsidy for a railway from Nelson to Robson. About 1885, George J. Ainsworth of Oregon, together with G. B. Wright and others, secured a charter for the construction of a railway from the Columbia river to Kootenay lake. The company did not commence operations within the time specified by their charter, and the same was extended upon the promoters depositing $25,000 with the government. This deposit was forfeited, and upon the expiration of the company's charter, the Canadian Pacific Railway company secured a charter for the Columbia & Kootenay railway from Nelson to Robson, which was built in 1890-1. * * * *

Charles St. Barbe is correct in his statement that Arthur Bunting put up the first cabin upon the townsite, but incorrect when he states that Hume's store was the second cabin erected. After Bunting put up his cabin others were put up by Martin Fry's sons, in which A. D. Coplen and Silas H. Cross kept their supplies and made their headquarters. The first cabin built upon the beach on which Vernon street runs, was put up by John F. Ward near Rolfe's cottage, for the accommodation of his wife and family. After this Frank Hanna put up a log cabin on Baker street, immediately west of the Bank of British Columbia. The log building referred to as Hume's log cabin was built in September, 1888, by R. E. Lemon behind the site of the building of J. Fred Hume & Co., afterwards occupied as their grocery store. When the cabin was completed a partnership was entered into between R. E. Lemon and J. Fred Hume, and they purchased the business of Denny & Devine. The members of the last mentioned firm were the pioneer merchants of Nelson. They were first located down where the steamboats Nelson and Kokanee were built, but afterwards moved up to where the Provincial jail now stands, where they carried on business in a shake shack until bought out by Lemon & Hume. The pioneers did not have very good luck. Denny committed suicide in Spokane, in 1891, by shooting himself through the head, and Devine went farming somewhere in the Palouse country. In 1889 John F. Ward built a log hotel, to take the place of the tent in which he had been doing business for about a year. John E. Walsh then secured the tent and opened up a store in it. James A. Gilker opened up a tent store, in 1889, between the government shack and Hume's store. It was not squeezed in between the government shack and Ward's hotel.

* * * The first formal Christmas dinner given in Nelson was given by Mrs. Frank Hanna, in 1888. There were over a dozen at the table, most of whom are still in the country. Among them were Henry Anderson, E. S. Topping, Dr. LaBau, Charles Ewing, Ike Nail, P. J. McDougall, Si Johns, Bart Henderson, Nate Lay, Cariboo Joe, Frank Hanna and myself. Two members of the dinner party have since died. Bart Henderson died in Nelson, and his was the first grave in the burying ground near the Columbia & Kootenay land office. Anderson died at Ainsworth some six years after the dinner. E. S. Topping was the first recorder in Trail Creek district, and is now a citizen of Trail. Frank Hanna and his wife are also at Trail, and Cariboo Joe divides his time between Trail and Rossland. Nate Lay is now at the Halcyon Hot Springs, and Dr. LaBau, Si Johns and myself have continued to make Nelson our headquarters ever since. Charles Ewing lives near Bonner's Ferry, and Ike Nail and McDougall are somewhere in the States. Among other well-known men who were here in 1888-9 were Ed. Atherton, John R. Cook, A. H. Kelly, Hugh Madden, Jack Cates, "Billy" Perdue, Joe Wilson, John Johnson, Mike Mahoney, Wilson and Alfred Hill, G. O. Buchanan, M. S. Davys, A. J. Marks, T. M. Ward, R. E. Lemon, J. H. Matheson, J. Fred Hume, John Houston, Alex Johnson, Oscar Soderberg, A. D. Coplen, Mike Kealey, Charles Van Ness, Newlin Hoover, and S. H. Cross. M. S. Davys was one of the first to purchase claims on Toad mountain, buying the Golden King group of claims for an English company in November, 1888. He built a trail, which left the Silver King trail a short distance from Nelson, and following Cottonwood Smith creek climbed the mountain to the claims about four miles from Nelson. A mill was put upon the property in the summer of 1889, a part of which was afterwards taken over to the Whitewater claims on Rover creek. Jack Matheson was the first barber to do business in Nelson. In 1889 he rigged up a chair on the sidewalk in front of Soderberg & Johnson's restaurant on Vernon street, and made sufficient to pay his travelling expenses, but on the way out he lost all the tools of his trade in the Columbia river. * * *

Harold Selous was not the first real estate agent in Nelson. The first to embark in this business were Messrs. Houston, Ink & Allan, in the spring of 1890, and for the first two years they sold twice as many lots as all the other agents in the town put together. Selous did not come to Nelson as a contractor. He got here in 1889 and worked up from a wood cutter. About the first job he had was clearing a lot for A. J. Marks for the site of the present Nelson hotel. After this he packed Marks' trunk up from the steamboat landing, and later took a contract for cutting E. S. Topping's stovewood. The first contract that Selous secured which amounted to anything was the clearing of the streets of Bogus town, in which undertaking I was his partner. It was after this that Selous, together with Tom Lewis, secured the contract for widening the channel of the Kootenay river. It was from the profits of these contracts that Selous got his start, but in order to get this start Selous worked harder than most men in Nelson. Hard work was a greater factor in Selous' climb up the ladder than luck. * * *

The first postoffice established in Nelson by the postal department was located in James A. Gilker's tent in 1889, although not the first postmaster in Nelson, Gilker was the first to receive an appointment from Ottawa. He was at this time in partnership with F. B. Wells of Revelstoke, who was postmaster at Revelstoke. A weekly mail service down the Columbia river was established, but upon the river route becoming closed in November, the government ordered the mail to be brought in via Kootenai station on the Northern Pacific. This was a monthly service, and Ned Bray took the contract for the winter of 1889-90,

receiving $100 per month. In the winter of 1890-91 the mail was brought in from Marcus. The postal department announced that it would establish a service from Marcus twice a month during the winter. As the C. & K. railway was being constructed at this time, an attempt was made to secure a weekly service, but postoffice inspector Fletcher refused to comply with the request for the weekly service. The people of Nelson then decided to pay the difference in the cost of a weekly and twice a month service and a subscription list was headed by Houston, Ink & Allan with a subscription of $100. Joe Wilson secured the mail contract that winter, but was drowned in Kootenay lake before the service was started. The contract was then taken over by Blake Wilson and Billy Perdue. Perdue had the lower end of the route from Marcus to Trail, roughly speaking a distance of 60 miles, and Mexican Juan the portion from Trail to Nelson, another 55 miles. This service gave great satisfaction, as the people of Nelson could gamble on the hour that Mexican Juan would arrive, and the contract with Wilson & Perdue was renewed in the winter of 1891-2. Colville being substituted for Marcus as the starting point. In 1892-3 the contract was awarded to Robert and Anthony Madden. * * *

Prior to the establishment of a postoffice in Nelson all the mail that reached this section, of which E. S. Topping was acting postmaster, was franked in by Dr. Hendryx, whose associates were operating the steamer Galena on Kootenay lake, of which captain Hayward was master. During 1888-89, nearly all the stamps sold in Nelson were American stamps. Even after the postoffice was established fully one-third of the stamps sold here were United States stamps. In the winters of 1890-1 and 1891-2 the subscription lists of the Nelson Miner were sent out to Marcus and Colville and accorded the privileges of the American mails upon the payment of the United States rate of postage, the bulk of the papers being returned to Canada through the United States mails. * * *

William Baillie-Grohman brought in the first steamboat which ran on Kootenay lake. It was known as the Midge, and was a small screw steamer. She was brought in in 1884 in connection with the reclamation work along the Kootenay river and eventually fell into the hands of T. L. Davis, after which it was generally known as the "Mud Hen." Davis was a Welshman who was brought out by Colonel Baker to superintend an experimental farm which he was to induce the government to locate at Cranbrook. This experimental farm was never started, but Davis worked for Colonel Baker for some months. He afterwards fell in with Baillie-Grohman and came down to Kootenay river as a prospective settler upon the land which the company was to reclaim, it being a condition that the reclamation company should not only reclaim but settle the lands before securing title. The next steamer to make its appearance was the Surprise, which was put into service sometime in 1885-6 by the Hendryx company operating the Blue Bell mine. Its chief business was the moving of supplies to the Blue Bell. Following this came the steamer Idaho in the spring of 1888. This craft was brought over from the Coeur d' Alene lake by Dick Fry and Capt. Thompson, having been purchased from Capt. Ainsley and Nelson Martin. "Hi" Sweet was the first engineer upon the Idaho. The Idaho is still in commission on Upper Kootenay lake. Three months after the Idaho, came the Galena, also owned by the Hendryx company. This was the first boat run by captain Hayward upon Kootenay lake. Its first trip from Nelson to the Blue Bell mine was a memorable one. Dr. Hendryx had loaded the boat up with a number of friends, who in return for his hospitality were expected to admire the steaming qualities of the Galena. The steamer started back from Nelson, and reached the Narrows, about fifteen miles from the town. Here it was found that the boat's engines were not powerful enough to get through and a lay-over followed until the Idaho came along and towed the Galena through, another day being occupied in reaching the Blue Bell mine. After this it was found necessary to cut the Galena in two and lengthen her. The Galena continued to be the principal boat on the lake until June, 1891, when the Nelson was launched. It continued running regularly until the fall of 1892. * * * * *

The building of the smelter at Pilot Bay was not primarily a part of the scheme for the development of the Blue Bell mine. Before the erection of the Pilot Bay smelter was decided upon, A. B. Hendryx and Franklin Farrel had a sort of option on the Silver King group. They examined the property and made the owners an offer, but it was rejected. It was not until after this offer was rejected that Pilot Bay was selected as a site for smelting operations. The location of the smelter at Pilot Bay was nothing more or less than a real estate speculation. Pilot Bay had been selected by George Kane, now of Kaslo, as a site for a sawmill for the Davies-Sayward company, and was first known as Pirate's Bay. The following spring "Josh" Davies and Dr. Hendryx got up the Pilot Bay townsite scheme and work was started upon the construction of the smelter. Although Dr. Hendryx did not meet with much success in his operations in Kootenay he is kindly remembered by all the old timers. He was the most accommodating man that ever cast in his lot with the districts. His company did much to keep the country moving for the first two or three years after its discovery. They were in fact the only men in the country who had any money. Much was spent in the development of the Blue Bell and in the operating of small steamers. These latter were of great services to the men moving about the lake, and there never was a man too poor to ride on the Hendryx boats. * * *

Sproat's Landing was never a rival of Nelson's. It never amounted to anything more than a construction camp during the building of the Columbia & Kootenay railway. In addition to the railway company's store the only merchants were R. E. Lemon, and Sam Green now of Kaslo. John A. Gibson ran a hotel there and Mrs. Schroeder conducted a restaurant. When the railway work was finished the residents of Sproat's Landing moved to Nelson, one after another. None of the people doing business in Sproat's Landing purchased town lots, and all of them moved off without paying the owner anything in the way of rental for the ground covered by their place of business. Some settled afterwards, but those who did not were sued. These cases were tried in Nelson, and judgment was given in favor of Thomas Sproat in some of the cases. W. C. McLean, who was one of the contractors upon the C. & K. railway, became entitled to a place in history through being sued at this time by the owner of Sproat's Landing for compensation for the use of the townsite as a grazing ground for his horses. W. F. Teetzel was never engaged in business at Sproat's Landing, and George A. Bigelow came to Nelson direct from Manitoba. * * *

The Miner, the first newspaper established in Nelson, was not started by Messrs. Houston & Ink, but by Messrs. Houston, Ink & Allan, the plant being packed in by Joe Wilson's pack train from Sproat's Landing. The Tribune was not started by Houston & Ink, as stated by St. Barbe, but by John Houston, C. V. Dake, W. J. MacKay, Mr. Ink having left Nelson after the sale of The Miner, and The Tribune was a growing concern before he returned or acquired any interest in it. * * * *

There is the same consistent inconsistency in the historian's account of the attempt to establish smelters at Revelstoke and Golden. He states that the smelter at Golden was blown in but was allowed to freeze up, and that nothing came of it, and that therefore it could not be said to have been more successful than the Revelstoke smelter, "which was never lit up at all." * *

There are many theories for the application of the name of Bogustown to the townsite first placed on the market as "Nelson City." The name was first given it by E. R. Atherton, and was owing as much to trouble which men employed in improving it had in securing their money as to any attempt made by the owners to trade upon the reputation of Nelson in the registering of the townsite as "Nelson City." * * *

R. E. Lemon is more of a pioneer than many think. He made his first visit to Nelson in May, 1888. "Bob" had brought a big stock of groceries down the Columbia river from Revelstoke on a flat boat. He made the

trip down to Sproat's Landing in four days, leaving Revelstoke on May 14th and arriving at Sproat's on the 18th. Among those who came down the river in Lemon's flat boat were G. O. Buchanan, Harry Sheran, Thomas M. Ward, Bob Hall and Thomas Downs. Lemon had an idea that the town for southen Kootenay would be on the Columbia river, but before he located he decided to take a run over and see Stanley, as Nelson was then called. This it should be remembered was a year after G. M. Sproat, according to the local historian, had visited Nelson and decided to make it "his" capital. Notwithstanding this there was no trail into Nelson from the Columbia river. Before R. E. Lemon could get his goods into Nelson he had to build a trail from Sproat's Toad Mountain trail at Forty Nine creek to Eagle creek, where he picked up the Poorman trail into Nelson, which had been built by Nail & McDougall from the Poorman. The men employed by Lemon on this work were G. H. Colwell, Ike Lougheed, Thomas Barrett, Oliver Redpath and John Bell, the first three being still in the country. During the construction of the C. & K. railway Lemon carried on stores at Sproat's Landing and at Nelson, but in the spring following the completion of the road he closed up his store at Sproat's and gave his attention to the Nelson house. * * *

George A. Bigelow was not a pioneer of Nelson, as he did not reach here until May 2nd, 1890, but he made his share of history just the same. Shortly after his arrival in Nelson, Bigelow was made a justice of the peace, and it was upon the bench rather than behind the counter that he attracted attention. There was no fun in being a justice of the peace in 1890. One of Bigelow's first experiences was being called upon to foot it to Sproat's Landing to sit as an associate justice with John McLeod upon the case of Mrs. McKenzie, mother of the notorious Tosh McKenzie, who was killed a short time ago at Steveston. Mrs. McKenzie, better known as "mother McKenzie, came before the justices upon a charge of selling liquor to the Indians, and with being a loose, idle and disorderly person. At this trial Jack Nolan, now customs officer at Waneta, acted as constable. The justices speedily found the accussed guilty, and fined her $50 each. In pronouncing sentence, justice Bigelow expressed the regret that he had not the power to hang the prisoner, but it did not phase "mother McKenzie." She continued to ply her trade around the country for some time after, until ordered to leave. T. C. COLLINS.

Business and Biographical Sketches

Many Old Pioneers. Some Later Arrivals, and all Men, Firms and Corporations of Ability and Standing.

JOHN A. TURNER & CO.,

General Merchants.

This is one of the oldest and most prominent mercantile houses in the Kootenays. The business was established by J. Fred Hume, M. P. P., in 1890, and was conducted under the style of J. Fred Hume & Co. Mr. John A Turner was general manager for Mr. Hume from 1892 to 1894, and in the latter year purchased the entire business and stock of goods on hand.

This having been a pioneer store, and its principal lines being staples, it has contributed in a very large degree in furnishing the necessary supplies for the development of all the mining camps commercially tributary to Nelson. The stock carried for wholesale and retail, under the comprehensive term of general merchandise, consists principally of heavy hardware, shelf hardware, stoves, ranges, miners' supplies, paints and oils, groceries, provisions, crockery and glassware. A specialty is made of iron and steel, iron pipe, sheet metal and giant powder. The house is general agent for the Giant Powder Company, and carries a large stock in its magazine, just across the lake from the city. The house is also agent for the celebrated Gurney stoves and ranges manufactured at Hamilton, Ont. There is a sheet metal and plumbing shop operated in connection with the business, and a full line of plumbing goods is carried in stock.

The salesroom occupied by this house, at the corner of Baker and Josephine streets, is one of the best in Nelson. The surplus stock occupies a basement, the full size of the salesroom, and an outside warehouse, usually well filled with stoves and ranges, coal, flour and other bulky goods.

While by far the larger part of the business of this house is done at wholesale, its retail trade is also important, and a delivery wagon is run for the accommodation of city patrons. In the retail department a specialty is made of supplying the best family, hotel and restaurant trade.

John A. Turner was born in Cornwall, England. He has, however, been many years a resident of the Dominion. His trade, like his acquaintance, extends to every town and camp of the Kootenays and beyond. He is prominent in political and social circles, and is one of Nelson's most popular and esteemed citizens and business men.

HYDE, TITSWORTH & CO.,

Importers.

Hyde, Titsworth & Co., commission merchants, grocers and provision dealers, are the leading commission merchants of the Kootenays and prominent grocery and provision merchants. They are wholesale and retail dealers in oranges, lemons, nuts, California and Washington fruits and vegetables, fancy creamery and dairy butter, eggs, poultry and game, domestic and imported cheese, oysters, fish, salt and smoked meats and staple and fancy groceries.

This house was established in 1895 by L. M. Hyde for Herrin & Co., of Spokane, Washington. In February of the same year Messrs. L. M. Hyde and Elmer Titsworth purchased the business, and have since conducted it under the present style of Hyde, Titsworth & Co. The firm may be said to have begun business under favorable auspices. Both members have been in the produce and commission business for several years in the employ of Herrin & Co., of Spokane, and were, therefore, experienced in their special line of trade. It may be stated, too, that the firm, while doing a considerable commission business, transacts a much larger business by actual purchase. This is preferable for the reason that strictly first-class goods pay the best margin of profit in this market. The firm has its own buyer in Spokane, whose instructions are to select and buy the best of everything in the lines handled. In this way only can the maximum of value be brought over the international line for a minimum tariff tax. This, and the desire to serve their patrons with the best explains why Hyde, Titsworth & Co. carry only first-class goods in every line.

This firm has for storage purposes, besides its commodious store on Baker street, two large cellars where winter supplies are kept. This firm is, therefore, able to supply its patrons with fresh vegetables and fruits at all seasons. The firm has the present year added very complete lines of staple and fancy groceries to its stock. While the trade of this house is largely by wholesale, it nevertheless has an important retail trade, and delivery wagons are run to supply it.

L. M. Hyde is a native of Illinois and was some time a resident of Chicago. Mr. Titsworth is also a native of Illinois, and, like Mr. Hyde, came to Nelson from Spokane in 1895.

Nelson has many responsible firms, but none more so than Messrs. Hyde, Titsworth & Co. Neither has Nelson a business firm of any kind more highly esteemed for uprightness and honorable dealing.

J. A. GILKER.

It is gratifying to note that Nelson's pioneer merchants are now among her most prosperous business men and prominent citizens. J. A. Gilker, postmaster, merchant and councilman, is one among them.

Mr. Gilker was born, and grew to

manhood, in the province of Quebec. He was employed in the mechanical department in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and came in the employ of that company to British Columbia in 1885. He was stationed for some time at Revelstoke, and came from that place to Nelson in 1889, bringing with him one of the first stocks of goods offered for sale here. He was the same year appointed Nelson's postmaster; but finding trade less active than he had expected, he left his goods in charge of a clerk, who also acted as deputy postmaster, and returned for the winter to Revelstoke. Returning to Nelson the following spring, Mr. Gilker decided to remain permanently here, and he, in association with Mr. F. D. Wells of Revelstoke, who was until December, 1896, his business partner, put up the fourth frame building erected in Nelson.

The store containing the post office in a small town, other attractions being equal, is always the most popular store of the place. We are, therefore, justified in saying Gilker & Wells' store was in pioneer days, as J. A. Gilker's store now is, the popular store of Nelson. From a small beginning, and stock measured by a modest line of the prime staples in men's wear, most necessary to supply the trade of a mining community, the stock has grown and developed, as it were, until Mr. Gilker has the largest and most complete stock of ready-made clothing, gents' furnishings, boots and shoes, hats and caps, etc., in the Kootenays. He is an importer from England, Germany and the United States, and carries a very complete stock of English, Scotch, German and American goods.

Mr. Gilker is still Nelson's popular postmaster. The office so long occupying a place in his store, now adjoins it with a communicating door, so that the increased duties of the office still admit of Mr. Gilker's continuing his merchandising and of his giving much of his attention to his private business, as well as to his duties as a member of Nelson's first city council, of which he was elected a member in April last.

LAWRENCE HARDWARE CO.

The notable increase of Nelson's trade within the last two years has been in no small degree the result of the increased number of business houses and of the larger stock of goods from which to choose. Of the new mercantile houses, none have begun business with a larger or more complete stock of goods, and none have become more popular than the Lawrence Hardware Company, of which Mr. James Lawrence is the registered owner.

The house was opened for business in June, 1896, in a building erected by Mr. Lawrence, especially for the purposes of a wholesale and retail hardware store and sheet metal and plumbing shops. The main building is 80x120 feet, and two stories high, which, together with a 25x75 foot warehouse, gives a floor space for business, shops and storage, of sixteen thousand, two hundred and seventy-five square feet.

When it is stated that this considerable space is occupied by one of the largest and most complete stocks of hardware in the Kootenays, including stoves, ranges, iron and steel, builders' hardware, tin and sheet metal ware, pipe, plumbing supplies, Truax ore cars and buckets, powder, fuse and miners' tools, and that the shops are supplied with all the latest appliances and machine tools for the manufacture of tin and heavy sheet metal ware, for plumbing, cornice work and furnace heating, it will be seen that the Lawrence Hardware Company is one of the most important mercantile manufacturing enterprises in Nelson.

The house is agent for the celebrated Stewart stoves and ranges, manufactured at Woodstock, Ontario, and for the Hamilton Powder Company. Paints, oils and glass are also carried for both wholesale and retail. An important specialty of the business of this house is contract work in plumbing, cornice work, roofing, steam heating and furnace work. Fourteen men are employed in all departments, and the entire business is under the supervision of the proprietor.

Mr. James Lawrence was born at Capetown, South Africa. His parents are Scotch, and he was taken as a child to Glasgow, Scotland, from whence he came with his parents to Canada in 1873. He began his experience in the hardware trade as an employee at the age of fifteen, and made his first business venture at Stonewall, Manitoba. He went to the Northwest Territory in 1882, and engaging in business at Lethbridge, became one of its prominent and leading merchants. Mr. Lawrence came from the Northwest Territory to Nelson. After deciding to locate here, he manifested his confidence in the future of Nelson by paying the highest price up to that time paid for a business lot. He has recently bought a second adjoining lot, for which he has again paid the highest price. He has done and is doing a very considerable wholesale and retail trade, and does a large business in contracting. His trade extends to the limit of the territory commercially tributary to Nelson, and the name, Lawrence Hardware Company, is a guarantee of honest goods and fair and honorable dealing.

GEORGE ROSS,

Merchant Tailor.

George Ross, the merchant tailor, is comparatively a new-comer to Nelson, having been a resident of the city only since May of the present year. As soon after his arrival as was possible, Mr. Ross took temporary quarters and opened a tailoring establishment over Nelson's post office, where he remained until he was able to secure a suitable location and salesroom. These he succeeded in obtaining in the latter part of August, and his business is now eligibly located in an attractive salesroom, just east of Josephine on Baker street.

Mr. Ross carries a large and well selected stock of the finest imported goods, and keeps fully abreast of the times, both as to style of cut and the latest and most fashionable patterns. His stock includes the best English, Scotch, French, Irish and American goods, and it is not too much to say the display of trouserings, suitings, vesting and overcoatings is one of the most attractive in the city.

Mr. Ross is an experienced cutter, and does all cutting and fitting himself. He uses the celebrated Madison system, and the latest Mitchell plates are always on display for the inspection of patrons. All garments are made under Mr. Ross' direct supervision, and none but the most skilled journeyman tailors are employed. Mr. Ross makes no misfits.

It is gratifying to state that Mr. Ross already counts among his patrons many of the best dressed gentlemen of Nelson and contiguous camps, and among his regular customers many men of official standing, mining men, financiers and business men.

George Ross was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. He learned his trade in his native land and in England, and before entering business on his own account, was employed in some of the foremost tailoring establishments of Manchaster, England. He came direct from England to British Columbia six years ago and settled in Victoria. He came to Nelson, however, from Wellington, B. C., where he formerly conducted the leading tailoring business.

ASHCROFT & M'CLELLAND

Blacksmiths and Horseshoers.

It is a matter for gratulation with horse owners, that Nelson has, in the persons of H. D. Ashcroft and J. S. McClelland two of the most expert horseshoers in British Columbia. It may with equal truth be added that both members of the above firm are no less competent mechanics in other lines of blacksmithing. The firm of Ashcroft & McClelland was formed and its business established in 1896. The firm owns its own shop and the ground upon which it stands. The shop is equipped with the latest machine tools and everything pertaining to mining, mill and general blacksmithing and horseshoeing, and a wagon making and repair shop is conducted under the same roof. Mining and general blacksmithing constitute the greater part of the work done, but horseshoeing is made an important specialty, and in this branch of the business this shop is a leader.

H. D. Ashcroft, although born in the state of Kentucky, came west over twenty years ago, and has lived for many years in Montana. He came to British Columbia in 1891. He was a prospector for about three years, but in 1896, becoming associated with J. S. McClelland, he decided to return to his trade. Mr. McClelland is a native

of the province of Quebec. He has been ten years in British Columbia, and is well and widely known as one of the finest mechanics in the province.

H. D. Ashcroft and J. S. McClelland are both sturdy of form, strong of limb, and are pronounced types of the ideal blacksmith and horseshoer. They are as genial as they are industrious and honorable, and are alike popular with their patrons and with all who know them. They do first-class work only, and guarantee satisfaction.

NELSON PLANING MILLS.

T. W. Gray.

It may be doubted if there is another single enterprise in Nelson that has been so closely identified with the building interests of the city, or that has had so much to do with the construction of our residences, business blocks and public buildings, as the Nelson Planing Mills.

These mills may be said to have had their birth two and a half years ago, when Mr. R. Stuckey put in a primitive plant and began business in a small way. Early in 1896, however, Mr. T. W. Gray succeeded to the business and plant. He at once put in fine, modern machinery, and conducted the business on a large scale.

The Nelson Planing Mills and yards cover a large area on the lake front. These mills have a capacity of 20,000 feet per day of ten hours, and it is worthy of remark that they have been run to their full capacity every day of the present building season. The plant comprises all the latest improved machinery, and no expense has been spared to make these mills on the par with the best in the Kootenays. Only the most skilled and competent workmen are employed and the best of materials used. At the present writing there are employed no less than forty skilled mechanics, drawing an average pay of $3 per day.

All imported lumber, such as cedar, redwood and the hardwoods, pine, fir and cedar shingles, laths, etc., is bought at wholesale, and every facility afforded to reduce the cost of production to the minimum, and make the quality of the product all that it can be made by A 1 materials, the best modern plant and the most skilled workmen.

While all kinds of mill work are done to order, a specialty is made of the manufacture of doors, windows, blinds, stair cases, mouldings, newels, balusters, mantels, grill work, bank, bar, store and office fittings, etc. The Nelson Planing Mills are also manufacturers of and dealers in rough and dressed lumber. Their location, on the lake front, the yards and mills being practically on the steamer dock, affords exceptional shipping facilities and a corresponding item of saving to purchasers. The business of these mills extends well over the Nelson district and to lake points beyond.

T. W. Gray is a native of the province of Ontario, but has been twenty-three years in British Columbia. He was formerly in the mill business in Vancouver and New Westminster, and is well known all over the coast. His past record is the best recommendation we could submit to the building and business public, and it is not too much to say Mr. Gray is no less esteemed for his excellent qualities of head and heart than he is highly respected as a prominent and successful business man.

A. H. HOLDICH.

Analytical Chemist and Assayer.

A. H. Holdich was born in Northamptonshire, England. At the age of seventeen years he entered the Royal School of Mines, London, under Prof. A. W. Hoffman and Drs. Perry and Tyndall. After finishing his three years' course at that world renowned seat of science, young Holdich secured a responsible position at Morfe Works, Swansea. After being seven years in the employ of Williams, Foster & Co., Mr. Holdich resigned his position to accept that of chief chemist to Wigan Coal & Iron Co., Wigan. This latter position he held for seventeen years, finally surrendering it to come to the British Kootenays, then attracting some attention in the mining world.

Mr. Holdich came direct from the mother country to British Columbia, and established his first business at Revelstoke in 1892, where he remined until the Hall Mines Company were speculating as to the advisability of erecting a smelter for the treatment of Silver King ore, at which time he was summoned to Nelson to advise and confer with the management of that great company. Respecting the weight of his advice on this important matter, it would seem sufficient to say the smelter was built and is today in successful operation; but we may add, had not Mr. Holdich clearly demonstrated the practicability of the smelter scheme, and the vast saving in the form of exorbitant freight and smelter charges to be gained by the Hall Mines Company smelting the Silver King ore at Nelson, it is extremely doubtful whether the city would today have been a smelting point.

After the smelter question had beefinally settled, Mr. Holdich re-established his assay office, and has since made Nelson his place of business and residence. His assay and chemical laboratory are equipped throughout with the best of everything in the way of approved appliances, and he deems no expense too great to keep them up to par with the best in the northwest. While he does an important business in the assaying department, receiving ores for assay from all over British Kootenay, Mr. Holdich makes no less a specialty of chemical analysis, and is fully prepared to analyze water, foods, etc.

We may say of Mr. Holdich, in conclusion, that he is no less a pleasant and courteous gentleman than he is an ardent student of science. He has a host of friends throughout the Kootenays, and is known far and wide in scientific circles.

CHARLES HILLYER,

Contractor and Builder.

Any article or series of sketches descriptive of Nelson and its business interests would be incomplete without appropriate mention of those who have contributed by their talent and labor to the building of the city's homes, business houses and public buildings. Among the contractors and builders of Nelson, none are more worthy of favorable mention than the subject of this sketch.

Charles Hillyer, the contractor and builder, and one of Nelson's first aldermen, was born in Cambridge, England, in 1864. He came direct to British Columbia in 1881, and settling in New Westminster, engaged in contracting and building. He subsequently moved to Vancouver, and came from the latter place to Nelson in 1891.

It may be truely said of Mr. Hillyer that he, in a literal sense, has been and continues to be, one of the builders of Nelson. From the early days of cabins and shacks to the present era of fine modern residences and business blocks, he has always been to the fore, and his services have always been in demand.

Mr. Hillyer was one among the first buyers of real estate in Nelson, and has always maintained a firm faith in the future of the place. His interests are all here. He is thoroughly identified with the prosperity of Nelson and his fellow citizens. He is a competent and reliable business man and a popular contractor and citizen.

Mr. Hillyer's contracts for the present season are both larger and more numerous than in any previous year in the life of Nelson. He employs from twenty-five to thirty-five men in all departments of his business, and superintends all departments himself.

Mr. Hillyer has always taken a becoming interest in public affairs, but has never been a seeker for public office. He was elected a member of Nelson's first board of aldermen upon the citizens' ticket in April of the present year, and has proved himself a painstaking and conscientious public officer.

A. M'LARTY,

Contractor and Builder.

The city of Nelson during the last six months has almost doubled the number of business houses and residences. Fine modern homes have in many instances been built adjoining the modest cottage or cabin. Large business blocks and hotels are becoming common. The present season will long be remembered as the first active era in building that Nelson has enjoyed since the first two years of its history. The present building era has attracted many mechanics and contractors in the building trade from the east and from the cities of British Columbia. Among the latter none have taken a more active part in this special line of

contracting than the subject of this sketch, Mr. A. McLarty, late of Victoria.

Mr. McLarty was born at Ridgetown, Ont., in 1855, where he received his early education and learned the trade of carpentering. Since becoming a master mechanic he has made rapid strides in his business, and there is scarcely a town or hamlet along the line of the Canadian Pacific railroad, from Winnipeg to the coast that does not bear lasting evidence of the handiwork as a contractor and builder. He was for a number of years a prominent contractor of Victoria, and from that city he came to Nelson in May of the present year. In this city he has entered upon a large number of contracts, and has become permanently identified with Nelson and the district.

In the past few months Mr. McLarty has completed or has now under way some of the most prominent and imposing business blocks on the principal streets of the city. Among these may be mentioned the McKillop block, on Baker street; the Broken Hill Mining block, now under construction on Baker street; the Applewhaite block, on Baker street, and others.

The construction of the new Hotel Hume, which, when completed and opened will be the finest hotel in the Kootenays, has been entrusted to the care of Mr. McLarty, as has also the carpenter work of the new Provincial jail, costing $14,000.

Mr. McLarty will be glad to furnish estimates and plans for business houses, residences and other buildings to be erected in any part of British Columbia. He has ample capital to carry out any contract he may enter into, and being himself a skillful mechanic and experienced builder will employ none but skilled workmen and may be depended upon to execute all contracts according to specifications and in the most thoroughly workmanlike manner.

KOOTENAY STEAM LAUNDRY,

Whitcher & Cleland.

The Kootenay Steam Laundry is the only enterprise of the kind in Nelson. It was established by the firm of Whitcher & Cleland, and since April 1st of the present year has been in successful operation.

Comparatively few people who have not been to some extent connected with the modern laundry, realize to what importance the business has grown within the past few years. If enterprises were to be measured by the amount of money paid out in wages, the modern laundry might justly claim a position above enterprises we have been accustomed to think of greater importance. It will doubtless be a surprise to many readers of this sketch to learn that the Kootenay Steam Laundry will pay out in wages annually from $4,500 to $5,000, and give constant employment to from eight to ten skilled workmen and women.

The modern steam laundry may be said to have had its birth at Troy, New York. It was there that the first modern laundry machinery was made and the first modern laundry operated, and it is in Troy that the most perfect laundry machinery now in use is made. In the Kootenay Steam Laundry the people of this section have the advantages of the best standard Troy laundry machinery, while, respecting the class of work done, we may say it is uniform in excellence and approaches perfection as nearly as can be done by the best modern machinery operated by the most competent experts.

The firm of Whitcher & Cleland is composed of Messrs. G. W. Whitcher and J. A. Cleland. The former is a Bostonian and the latter a Pennsylvanian by birth. Both came west many years ago, and before coming to British Columbia, had been for some years in Spokane, Washington, where they were formerly associated together in the grocery business. Subsequently Mr. Whitcher was connected for some time with the Spokane Steam Laundry of Spokane, and Mr. Cleland with the steam laundry at Pullman, Washington. They came together from Spokane to Nelson in February of the present year, and together built and equipped the Kootenay Steam Laundry.

Both members of the firm give their personal attention to the business, and by close application and correct business methods, have already built up an important business. The firm owns its plant and employes none but skilled white help. A wagon is run for the accommodation of the city trade, and laundry from surrounding towns is given the same immediate attention home orders receive.

THE QUEEN'S HOTEL,

Richardson & Perdue, Proprietors.

The Queen's Hotel is one of Nelson's newest and neatest first-class hotels. The building is a fine three story structure, centrally located, and has just been completed and furnished throughout in good modern style. The "Queen's" was erected by, and is the property of, Messrs. Fred Richardson and Harry Perdue. The building was designed especially for a first-class modern hotel. The halls are wide, the rooms are large, the dining room and office are large, the parlors are elegantly furnished. There are twenty-four large, well lighted, outside guest rooms, all furnished tastefully, expensively and with regard for the comfort of guests. The house is lighted throughout by electricity and warmed by furnace heat. There are bath rooms, sample rooms for commercial travelers and all other modern improvements and conveniences.

The "Queen's" will be conducted as a strictly first-class, modern hotel, upon both the American and European plans. An excellent chef will have charge of the culinary department, and the best of everything will be supplied for the table and for the bar.

The proprietors of the "Queen's" will have charge of the office in person. Fred A. Richardson was born in the city of Toronto. He is a well-known pioneer, having come to Nelson in 1890. He worked as a clerk for some of the pioneer merchants, and was for four years in the mercantile line and until recently, a member of the dry goods firm of Fred Irvine & Co. Mr. Richardson has put the savings of years into building and furnishing the "Queen's."

Mr. Perdue is a native of the state of Ohio. He has been a resident of British Columbia for a year or more, and is a brother of our widely-popular fellow-townsman, Billy Perdue, who is now on his way to Klondike with a drove of cattle.

The traveling public can make no mistake in stopping at the Queen's Hotel. The rates will be reasonable, the fare will be unexelled and the best people of the Kootenays and of Nelson will be found among its guests and patrons.

W. PERKINS & CO.

Brokers and Experts.

Time was, not so many years ago, that mines were bought and sold, without the buyer or seller having any clear conception of the real value of the property. That is now all changed, and mining has been reduced to a more conservative basis. In fact, so important has the opinion of the expert become, that it would be difficult to decide whether, in a majority of instances, the prospective buyer or seller is now more anxious to have the benefit of the testimony of competent experts. It is by reason of these changed conditions, and to the well-known ability of its members, that the firm of W. Perkins & Co., is held in so high esteem.

This firm is composed of Wm. Perkins and his two sons, John J. and Patrick. Mr. Perkins, Sr., was born in London, England, but came to America in 1847. He has been a miner for more than forty years, and his field of operation has included California, Mexico, Australia, Montana, Idaho, the Northwest Territory and British Columbia. His sons, now his partners, were born in Australia, and have grown up with, and been surrounded by, mining men, mines and mining interests all their lives. Mr. Perkins, Sr., brought his family from Australia to British Columbia twenty-six years ago. He has since been, from time to time, interested in mines and mining enterprises both in Canada and in the United States, and is alike well-known for his exceptional experience as a practical miner and mining expert on both sides of the international line.

The firm of W. Perkins & Co., was organized for the purpose of conducting a mining brokerage and real estate business, of experting and reporting on mineral claims, furnishing experienced prospectors, doing assessment and development work, caring for properties, locating mining claims, buying and selling mining properties, furnishing properties to corporations for stocking, purchasing mine and mill machinery

for clients, superintending mines, selling stocks, etc. The firm owns and controls more than forty mineral claims in this and adjoining districts. Its reputation for fair and honorable dealing with all parties equals the exceptional experience and ability of its members. The firm has recently received a very favorable offer to conduct a party overland on a prospecting tour through the Northwest Territory and to Klondike, and it is very probable one of the sons will make the proposed trip; but the firm will continue to do business in Nelson and the Kootenays. Strangers can make no mistake in entrusting their business to W. Perkins & Co.

THE ROYAL HOTEL.

W. G. Robinson, Prop.

Among Nelson's many excellent hostleries, there is none more worthily popular with the travelling public than the Royal Hotel. The Royal is most conveniently located at the corner of Stanley and Silica streets. The site is one of the most elevated occupied by any hotel in Nelson, and commands an excellent view of the city and surrounding country.

The Royal was opened to the public by Mr. Robinson, the present proprietor, in the winter of 1896. The building is a substantial two story structure, containing, besides the office, dining room, bar and billiard rooms, some thirty odd guest rooms. Mr. Robinson has spared no expense in furnishing the hotel, and every room is fitted up with new and attractive furniture and carpets. There are no inside rooms, all being light and airy, and commanding an unobstructed view from the windows. The house is fitted throughout with modern conveniences, including electric lights, hot and cold water, electric bells, etc.

Comfort of guests is the first law of the management of the Royal. Mr. Robinson is his own manager and conducts his hotel with a view of giving the best accommodations to be had in the city. The dining room is presided over by courteous and attractive waiters, the culinary department is in the hands of an experienced chef and the table is in itself a compliment to the caterer. The bar is one of the best in the city, and over it are served the best drinks and the finest imported cigars.

The Royal Hotel is conducted on the American plan. A 'bus meets all incoming and departing boats and trains, baggage, mail and telegrams of guests receive careful attention, rooms are reserved when ordered by telegraph, and every courtesy and convenience extended to the public by first-class hotels elsewhere is here observed.

Mr. Robinson is a native of Manitoba, where he enjoyed the esteem of the public as a general merchant until May, 1896, when he came to Nelson to associate himself with the firm of A. C. Buchanan & Co. He retained his interest in that firm until December, 1896, when he opened the Royal Hotel as proprietor of which he has one of the most popular hostleries in Nelson, and his house is a resort for mining men, business men and commercial travelers.

ROBERT HURRY.

Baker and Restauranter.

Nothing else, perhaps, has contributed so much to lightening the drudgery of the housewife as the perfection of the modern system of baking and the establishment of bakeries in all our towns and cities. Family baking day has no longer any terror for the housewife, but fresh bread and rolls can be had delivered at one's door daily, and at such prices that is real economy to buy bread ready baked.

The subject of this sketch is the proprietor of the oldest bakery and of two of the most popular restaurants in Nelson. The Vienna Bakery & Restaurant was established several years ago by John Humer, and was purchased by Mr. Hurry in March of the present year. He has instilled much that is new in the business, and the bakery department is always replete with the freshest and most delicious bread, cakes, pastry and confectionary. The ice cream manufactured at the Vienna contains only the purest cream and flavors, and it is absolutely unrivaled by that made by any competitor.

As a caterer Mr. Hurry stands alone, and it may be truthfully be said that the Jubilee restaurant is the peer of any in Nelson. The culinary department is presided over by a skilled chef, and the tables are beautifully supplied with the best of everything that the market affords. A specialty is made of short orders, and in this line the Jubilee stands stands alone in its excellence. There are private boxes for ladies and parties, and the service is all that can be desired.

The Jubilee is open at all hours of the day and night, and it must be said that Mr. Hurry has exhibited excellent taste and commendable liberality in giving Nelson a restaurant of which many larger cities might be proud.

Mr. Hurry is a Canadian by birth, having been born at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in 1864. His experience in his line of business has been extended, as the excellent quality of his productions amply show. As a citizen he is held in high esteem, and his every action as a public spirited and honorable member of society, justifies the statement that he is a man of sterling integrity as well.

A. L. McCULLOCH.

Civil, Sanitary and Hydraulic Engineer.

A. L. McCulloch, C. E. and S. E., was born in Galt, Ont., in 1865, where he received his early education in the public schools. He afterward entered the engineering department of the Toronto university, known as the School of Practical Science, from which he graduated in 1887, thereafter, for three years, practicing his profession of civil engineer at Galt.

During his practice at Galt, Mr. McCulloch was appointed to take charge of the construction of the Kincardine, Galt and Pembroke water works, and of the Toronto Junction sewerage system. In 1894 he constructed the Galt, Preston and Hespler electric railroad, the first electric freight line in Canada, at a cost of over $125,000. It has five per cent. grades and is regarded as a conspicuous triumph of modern engineering. In 1896 he had charge of construction of the Pretrolia water works, costing $170,000. In this system the water is brought from Lake Huron, a distance of nearly twenty miles.

During these years of experience, Mr. McCulloch finally adopted hydraulic and sanitary engineering as a specialty in his profession, dealing principally with water works and sewers. He submitted plans for the excellent systems of water works and sewers now under course of construction in this city, and when they were finally adopted in July of the present year, he was immediately appointed superintendent of construction of these public works. He has recently been appointed city engineer by the city council, and intends making Nelson his permanent place of residence.

It is admissable to say of Mr. McCulloch's recognized ability in his profession, that he is well equipped to entertain propositions pertaining to engineering in all branches of the science, and that his experience has been such in Canada as to justify the responsible and honorable positions he has held and now holds, as is evidenced by his being a member of the Ontario Land Surveyors' association, and an associate member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

NELSON BREWING COMPANY.

The Nelson Brewing Company is the registered name of a firm recently organized to succeed to the business of R. Riesterer, Nelson's pioneer brewer. "Riesterer's Brewery" will, therefore, hereafter be known as the Nelson Brewery.

This was the first, and, up to the present writing is the only brewery plant in Nelson. It was established in 1893 by R. Riesterer an experienced German brewer who has lived twenty-five years in British Columbia. Mr. Riesterer has been a brewer at Victoria, at New Westminster and at Vancouver, and is esteemed one of the best brewers in the province of British Columbia.

The brewery is, except as to its capacity, almost a duplicate of the best modern breweries of the east. It has its own ice manufacturing plant and the modern refrigerating system. It has a capacity for manufacturing five hundred gallons of lager beer per day, and refrigerating storage capacity for five hundred barrels. Porter is also manufactured, and in the manufacture of either lager beer or porter nothing but the best of malt and hops is used.

The brewery plant includes a bottling department where beer and porter are bottled for the trade and for families.

A wagon is run for the accommodation of city patrons and to facilitate shipping to outside towns and camps.

Mr. Riesterer takes personal charge of every brew made. He uses only the best imported malt and the best of Washington hops. It is an interesting fact that the exceptionally pure water used is especially adapted for making a strictly pure lager beer, and the product of the Nelson Brewery is pronounced by connoisseurs to be equal in flavor and keeping qualities to the best beer made in Canada or the United States.

J. R. F. Rowley, late of England, who has just purchased an interest in this brewery, and who will conduct the business of the new firm, has been but a few months in Nelson, but has many friends here and has met with a warm reception in business circles.

GILBERT STANLEY.

Tobacconist and Newsdealer.

This was the pioneer house of the kind in Nelson. The business had been established about six months when it was purchased by Mr. Stanley in 1891, and it has been conducted by him since that date. The stock carried is so well indicated at the head of this article that it only remains to be said of the tobacconist stock that it is one of the largest and most complete in tobaccos, cigars and smokers' articles in West Kootenay, and that "Stanley's", is headquarters in Nelson for lovers of the weed.

As a news depot "Stanley's" has always been in the front rank. Subscriptions are taken for all papers, magazines and reviews in Canada, the United States and in Europe, and all papers, and other periodicals for which there is any demand, are kept for sale.

A popular feature of "Stanley's" is his social hall and reading room, where many patrons are wont to take a quiet smoke while reading the latest papers received from all parts of the world, or, meeting congenial friends enjoy a game of chess or whist.

Gilbert Stanley was born in the province of Quebec. For nine years he has been in British Columbia, and for the past six years he has been one of Nelson's business men. Like most Nelson merchants he is interested in mining enterprises. He is associated with his brother, E. H. Stanley, in the ownership of the extension of the Athabasca lead, which is proving to be one of the richest gold-bearing properties yet discovered in West Kootenay. He also has valuable interests in other properties. He is a property owner in Nelson, and one of her most respected and esteemed citizens.

H. M. VINCENT

Merchant Tailor.

The rank of Nelson's business men is being lengthened the present year in all branches of trade. One of the latest accessions deserving special mention is H. M. Vincent, a merchant tailor, late of London, Ont. Mr. Vincent arrived in Nelson last month. He was fortunate in securing a desirable salesroom at No. 32 Baker street. His fall and winter stock having been ordered previously to his coming, has just arrived. It may be said of this new stock, that no better and more complete has ever been displayed in Nelson. There are English, Scotch, French and Irish suitings, the latest style in overcoatings, trouserings and vestings, and all the novelties for the fall and winter seasons. The stock in all grades has been selected with a view of meeting the demands of the best trade of Nelson.

Mr. Vincent is a native of the province of Ontario. His opportunities for perfecting himself as a skilled cutter and fitter have been exceptionally favorable. After learning his trade in Ontario he worked as a journeyman tailor in some of the American cities, and was for a time in business in San Rafael, California. Returning to his native province he engaged in business at London, Ont., where he met with merited success.

Mr. Vincent uses the actual measurement system of cutting. He will cater to the best trade, and has a stock of goods and the ability to serve the trade satisfactorily. He states that the fall and winter fashions call for a shortening of coats and a closer fitting of pantaloons, but that tastes and preferences of his patrons will be consulted in these respects as in all others, and the public can see the latest London and New York fashion plates at his salesrooms. No. 32 Baker street.

In the gentlemen's furnishing goods department, a full line of the latest styles of neckwear, collars, cuffs, handkerchiefs, etc., has just been received.

Mr. Vincent will have personal supervision over all work done in his shop, and will employ none but the best skilled tailors.

NELSON LIVERY STABLE.

Wilson & Harshaw.

The firm of Wilson & Harshaw is not only the leading livery firm of Nelson, but controls its transfer business as well. Besides the horses kept for livery purposes, among which are a number of excellent saddle horses for both ladies and gentlemen, the firm owns and runs seventeen teams for freighting and to do the transfer business of Nelson.

As transfer agents Wilson & Harshaw are intimately associated both with the business men of the city and with the traveling public. They run omnibus and baggage wagons for the convenience of travelers, and heavy truck wagons for the transfer and delivery of freight. They make annual contracts with merchants for the transfer of goods from the railroad depot and boats to their places of business, and in many instances the first knowledge a merchant has of the arrival of goods is their delivery at his door by a truck belonging to this firm.

General trucking and hauling such as the moving of pianos, safes, household goods, etc., is done for the public, and persons expecting household goods or other freight, have only to leave their order with the company to insure the prompt delivery of their goods on arrival, the firm, when desired to do so, paying the freight and charges and receipting for goods as the agent of the patrons.

The firm owns between forty and fifty head of horses, the stable it occupies and the ground upon which it stands, and is in every way responsible for its contracts.

Wm. Wilson and Henry Harshaw are both early pioneers to Nelson. Mr. Wilson was born in Toronto, Ontario, and Mr. Harshaw in the state of Iowa. Mr. Wilson has been in the freighting and transfer business for a number of years. The livery business was started in 1892. The present firm was formed in 1895.

Persons or parties arriving in Nelson with the design of looking over the country with a view of investment or settlement cannot do better than to call on Wilson & Harshaw. Their extensive acquaintance will enable them to give much valuable information, while their teams and drivers will be at the disposal of patrons at prices as moderate as can be obtained elsewhere.

WILLIAM P. ROBINSON.

Deputy Sheriff for West Kootenay.

The candid student of the science of government will find in the person and official life of the sheriff of West Kootenay, very convincing evidence in favor of the civil service rules of Great Britain and Canada. Sheriff William P. Robinson has been forty years almost continually in public life. He was born in the city of London, England, and was, when a young man, on the city of London police force.

He came to British Columbia more than thirty years ago, and has been for a quarter of a century well and widely known as one of Canada's most efficient and popular peace officers. He was for a number of years chief of police at Galt, Ontario. He was for some years a leading citizen of Winnipeg, and high bailiff of Silkerk county, Manitoba. He came to British Columbia about eight years ago, and in 1891 received the appointment to his present office from High Sheriff Stephen Redgrave, of Donald, East Kootenay. Sheriff Robinson's official field being the district of West Kootenay.

The freedom from lawlessness in the Kootenays, which has occasioned so much favorable comment in the papers over the line to the south of us, is no less gratifying to Canadians than an evidence of the high character and moral influence of Canada's peace officers, and it is not too much to say that Sheriff Robinson occupies an honorable place among them. In every position of trust and responsibility he has held, from a patrolman on the city of London police force to that he now fills so acceptably to the people of West Kootenay, he has won the lasting good

opinion of those with whom he has been associated, and the confidence and esteem of the public. Sheriff Robinson, although wearing the silver crown of age, still enjoys the vigor of a robust manhood. His official duties are many and important, though not arduous, and he will no doubt continue an example to younger officers and a terror to evil doers for many years yet to come.

C. E. MALLETTE & CO.,

Hay, Feed, Produce and Lumber.

There could hardly be a better evidence of the fair name Nelson bears abroad than the fact that she has attracted to her gates so many erstwhile prominent resident of other cities. Among those now in business here, we take especial pleasure in calling attention to the subject of this sketch.

C. E. Mallette was born in the state of Illinois; but, until he came to Nelson, was for many years a resident of Port Angeles, Washington, where he was prominent alike in business, social and political circles. He was one of the city's most popular mayors, and, as cashier of the Bank of Clallam County, and president of the Chamber of Commerce, was closely identified with the business interests of the city.

Mr. Mallette came to Nelson July 1st of the present year, and fifteen days after his arrival opened his present business house, located on west Baker street. The business covers a broad scope, embracing the sale of hay, grain, feed, produce, rough and dressed lumber, sash, doors, glass, etc. Mr. Mallette is in no sense a commission dealer. He buys and sells outright. His supply of hay, grain and feed is largely drawn from Spokane. In produce, butter, eggs, cheese potatoes and other products of the garden and farm are carried. Cold storage and refrigerating facilities afford ample protection to butter, and other perishable goods, while a large cellar, extending the full length and breadth of the building, offers a safe place of storage for perishable goods of greater bulk.

Mr. Mallette will erect a large warehouse as soon as he can secure a suitable site on the C. P. R. tracks. This will probably be in the very near future, and, when completed, the warehouse will greatly facilitate the conduct of his already important and daily increasing business.

The customary expression of good cheer tendered our new merchants was pronounced in the case of Mr. Mallette. The citizens of Nelson congratulate him upon his success and extend him the right hand of welcome.

A. FERLAND & CO.,

Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Furnishings.

In every city or town of considerable trade, there is always one place where the needs of the feminine wardrobe are carried in larger variety and supply than at others. That place in Nelson will, from present appearances, be at A. Ferland & Co's. It can, with equal truth, be added that the firm will carry one of the largest and most complete stocks of men's, youths' and boys' clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes and gents' furnishings. It is, however, in the line of fine dress goods and ladies', misses' and children's furnishings that this store will especially excell.

This new firm has one of the largest and most complete stocks of goods of the kind ever brought to Nelson. The lines are very full, and include staple and fancy dry goods, carpets, curtains, mattings, linoleums and house furnishing goods, clothing, gents' furnishings, boots, shoes, hats and caps, etc. In men's goods a specialty is made in miners' boots and shoes, mackinaw suits and goods suitable for mining and mountain wear.

This firm has, for the purpose of bringing its fine line of dress and ladies' furnishings goods before the public, established a mail order department. Samples are sent upon request to any address furnished, and goods will be sent by mail or express to order; and ladies may be assured that their orders will be filled with the utmost care and regard for their expressed preferences and wishes.

A. Ferland & Co. occupy one of the finest salesrooms in Nelson. The members of the firm, Messrs. A. Ferland and N. Timmins, are both experienced and honorable merchants. Mr. Ferland was the pioneer merchant of the C. P. R. from Brandon to Revelstoke. Upon settling more permanently at Calgary, he established branch stores at Golden, Donald, Rogers' Pass, Banff and other points, and was esteemed the leading merchant of the Northwest. Being desirous of curtailing his business connections, and massing his interests at one place, Mr. Ferland, at the beginning of the present year, took an extensive trip throughout British Columbia, and finding Nelson to be the most promising trade center and distributing point, decided to locate here and establish a really first-class store. He accordingly associated himself with Mr. N. Timmins, until recently a prominent merchant at Mattawa, Ontario, and together they formed the present firm. In closing it is admissible to say that among the favoring conditions of the firm's beginning business, not the least is the fact that its immense first stock was most advantageously purchased. Readers will remember the immense sales of dry goods and clothing made a few months ago in eastern cities. Mr. Ferland was fortunate in being at the inning at those sales, and patrons of the firm will receive a fair share of the benefit of the low prices at which the stock was bought.

CHARLES E. SEALEY.

City Clerk.

Charles E. Sealey, the first city clerk for the city of Nelson, was born at Waterdown, Ont., in 1869, and was educated at the best schools of his native province. Soon after leaving school he became a bookkeeper and accountant. He came to British Columbia and Nelson in 1892, and for the following five years, and until he received the appointment to his present office, he was a bookkeeper and accountant in one of Nelson's prominent mercantile houses.

Mr. Sealey's official duties include those of city clerk, proper, city assessor and of city water commissioner. He received his appointment from Nelson's first city council, in April of the present year.

Mr. Sealey's education and clerical experience having been such as to specially well qualify him for the duties of his office, and he being universally esteemed, his appointment gave general satisfaction to the public and, because of his personal popularity, his appointment was especially gratifying to his friends.

His office is one of trust and responsibility, as well as one requiring special fitness for the performance of its duties, and it may be added that he is a careful, painstaking and obliging public official.

CANADA DRUG & BOOK CO.

Nelson, B. C. Regina, N. W. T. Revelstoke, B. C.

Among the many accessions to the business houses of Nelson since the beginning of the present year, none are more likely to be leaders in their respective lines than the Canada Drug & Book Company. The incorporation papers of this company were taken out last June. The capital of the company is ample for the needs of its extended and prospectively large business, and its officers and directors are all practical and experienced merchants who take an active part in conducting the several stores and in the management of the companies' affairs.

Robert Martin resides at Regina and has charge of the drug department of the Regina store. C. H. Black, the secretary and treasurer, resides at Regina, and is manager of the book and stationary department. W. G. Pettingill, the vice-president, and P. Lamont, managing director, reside at Nelson and conduct the Nelson store. Mr. Pettingill being the druggist and Mr. Lamont the stationer. The company's Revelstoke store is under the management of Mr. C. R. McDonald.

While it is of the Nelson house that we will speak most particularly it is pertinent to state that all three of the stores conducted by this company carry practically the same line of goods.

The Canada Drug & Book Company has succeeded by purchase to the business of the Nelson Drug store, and has just opened its doors for business on the corner of Baker and Stanley streets. The stock being received is entirely new and is being attractively displayed. Of the drug department it may be said to include everything found in a first-class drug store; and everything known to the trade and in demand in this section, in the line of patent and prepared remedies, toilet articles, drug-

gists' sundries, etc., is kept. Of the many preparations manufactured by this company we cite the following: Western Embrocation, Kootenay Diarrhoea Specific, M. & L. Cough Mixture, Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla with Iodides, M. & L. Stomach and Liver Pills, C. B. D. Capsules and Lotion.

Assayers' supplies at wholesale and retail will be made a specialty. Putting up prescriptions also forms an important part of the business. The stationary and book department begins business with a very complete stock of books and stationary, office and school supplies, wall papers, musical goods, sporting goods, fishing tackle, and toys and fancy goods. Santa Claus is expected to make this department his headquarters for the present season at least, and the stock of toys and holiday goods will be large accordingly.

Nelson welcomes such merchants to her gates, and will find prosperity in their success.

D. M'ARTHUR & CO.,

Furniture Dealers and Undertakers.

This is the pioneer furniture house of Nelson. The business was established in 1889 by James McDonald & Co., and was purchased by D. McArthur & Co. in 1894.

The stock carried by this house is so plainly indicated in the head of this article, that it only remains to say that it is the largest and most complete stock of the kind outside of Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia, and includes everything in the line of furniture, from the plain and serviceable quality used by the laboring man's family to the most exquisitely carved and upholstered furniture which adorns the homes of the wealthy. The extensive stock of furniture is supplemented by a general line of carpets, floor cloths, mattings, rugs, mats, draperies, window curtains, shades and cornice poles, lace curtains and fixtures, upholstery, beds, bedding, pillows, toilet crockery, etc.

The firm is a buyer in carload lots from the best factories in Canada, and is, as well, an importer from the United States and Europe.

The business occupies three well filled floors, two being devoted to furniture wholly, and the greater part of the other to carpets, matting, portiers, curtains, etc. Undertakers goods form an important but inconspicuous part of the stock, and funeral directing, embalming and undertaking are a part of the business, the firm employing a skilled embalmer and experienced undertaker and funeral director for that department.

It is worthy of special mention that this firm has just received an addition to its stock of a two thousand dollar bill of carpets and that it is at the present time moving its immense stock from its old stand on Vernon street to the fine new block at the corner of Baker ond Ward streets. We may add that the business of this firm extends to every part of West Kootenay, and that it has furnished most of the hotels and best residences and many of the churches and offices in Nelson and the surrounding towns. James McDonald of the old firm is the travelling man for the house and is one of the most popular salesmen in West Kootenay.

D. McArthur was born in the province of Nova Scotia. He came to British Columbia fifteen years ago, and to Nelson in 1892. Mr. McArthur is a practical, conservative and popular merchant, controlling an ample capital, and having an unquestionable credit, he is enabled to buy in quantities from first hands, and to supply his patrons with everything in his several lines as cheaply as goods of the same style and quality can be bought in Victoria or Vancouver. His success here has been amply merited by a course of fair and honorable dealing, and he occupies a prominent place among the leading and respected merchants of Nelson.

A. C. EWART,

Architect.

The science of architectural engineering has developed in late years to a degree before unknown. The fame of Roman and Grecian architects was often made by a fortunately happy combination of artistic conceptions in a column, a capital, or the design of a cornice. European architects of a later day have frequently found fame in the conception of a chapel ceiling or in the design of a pulpit. Our age, being no less appreciative of the beautiful, but more utilitarian, demands in its architects not only a knowledge of all the decorating gems of antiquity, but, as well, the most advanced knowledge of practical architectural engineering.

A. C. Ewart is one of the leading architects of British Columbia. He was born in Gray county, province of Ontario, Canada, and learned the trade of carpenter and builder. After becoming proficient at his trade, young Ewart decided to seek his foutune in the "Golden West," and, accordingly, nearly twenty years ago, he emigrated to Oregon and settled in the upper Willamette valley.

After a decade, during which time he had become the leading contracter and builder of his locality, and had gained, through his business with architects, which called him with frequency to their offices, a practical knowledge of the architect's profession, Mr. Ewart decided to take up architecture as a study, and, to thoroughly equip himself, entered the office of the leading architect. His practical experience in the execution of the ideas of architects was a great aid to him in his study, and by great diligence, supplemented by his natural aptitude for the work, he soon became proficient in the profession.

Mr. Ewart's experience as an architect covers a period of ten years, the last six of which have been spent in British Columbia. He came to Nelson from Victoria, where he was prominent in building circles. His reputation had preceded him to Nelson, and on opening his office here in May of the present year, he was at once accorded recognition and welcome by the building public. We append the following list of buildings Mr. Ewart has designed, all of which are, at the present writing, in course of construction and many of them nearing completion:

A. L. McKillop, two story brick, business block, Baker street; John Elliot, two story brick, business block, Baker and Stanley; E. H. Applewhaite, two story frame, business block, Baker and Kootenay; Broken Hill Mining Co., three story frame, business block, Baker and Ward; Turner & Boeckh, two story frame, business block, Baker and Ward; Hume & Kirkpatrick, four story frame and stone hotel, Vernon and Ward; Judge Forin, stone and brick residence.

We might name others in contemplation, but the above will suffice to indicate the position Mr. Ewart has won in the building circles of Nelson. Of Mr. Ewart's personal qualities, we may say they are no less pleasant and agreeable than the pleasantest of homes his genius has planned.

A. G. SHAW,

Staple and Fancy Groceries.

There is no name among those of the merchants of Nelson better or more favorably known than that of A. G. Shaw. To the caterer for the hotel and to the housewife, the name presents visions of table luxuries from every land and every sea. To all who have dealings with him, either as seller or purchaser, the name suggests that assurance which is inspired by honesty and integrity; while to the promoter of enterprises for the public good the name is a guarantee of support and encouragement of worthy public movements.

Mr. Shaw was Nelson's third exclusive grocery dealer. He came to the Kootenay from Vancouver, where he was formerly in the grocery trade, and, deciding to locate in Nelson, lost no time in transferring his stock and opening a store. In the four years and more that have elapsed since he began business in June, 1893, Mr. Shaw has established a reputation for fair and honorable dealing that has won him the confidence of the public and the permanent patronage of a good share of the best families of Nelson. His stock, though not as large as some others, has always been the best that an experienced buyer, with an ample capital at his command, could secure; and, by paying cash, and by buying in quantities, he has always been able to buy in the cheapest market.

Mr. Shaw's salesroom is eligibly located, a few doors west of the bridge, on Baker street. The amount, variety and quality of goods carried in stock, the attractive manner in which they are displayed, and the careful and painstaking manner in which patrons are served, warrant us in saying this is one of the neatest and best appointed grocery stores in the Kootenays.

The line of canned and bottled goods is especially full and complete, em-

bracing California canned fruits, eastern canned vegetables, pickles, condiments, etc. A liberal line of side articles, such as confectionery, smoking and chewing tobacco, cigars, etc., is carried, as well as the staples, such as flour, sugar, salt, soap, etc. Specialties are made of the best gilt-edge creamery butter and fresh ranch eggs. A wagon is run for the free delivery of goods sold to city patrons, and every convenience of the first-class modern grocery store is afforded.

A. G. Shaw was born in the province of Ontario, but has been in British Columbia nine years, nearly half of which time he has been a citizen of of Nelson. He owns, besides his grocery business, some valuable city and mining property. He has a fine residence, located in the best part of the city, and is esteemed no less as a worthy and valued citizen than as an able and successful business man.

A. E. HODGINS.

Civil and Architectural Engineer.

Perhaps in no other line of thought and engineering have her colonies done greater credit to the mother country than in that of architecture, and there are few men in British Columbia who have been so thoroughly identified with the progress of the province as Mr. A. E. Hodgins. He has put his best thought and experience into the designing and construction of many of the finer buildings of the city of Nelson, and the excellant manner in which the streets of the city are constructed do him credit as a government employee.

Mr. A. E. Hodgins, a civil and architectural engineer of both scientific and practical application, was born in Toronto in 1863. He was educated at Upper Canada College, at Toronto, and at the Royal Military College at Kingston. He graduated at both colleges with honors.

In 1882 Mr. Hodgins became connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as a member of the engineering corps, then engaged on the construction of the main line of the road from Regina westward. He remained with the railroad company until the road was completed to Vancouver. His wide experience and excellent work as a civil engineer and architect becoming generally known, he was engaged, in 1891, by the government, and came to Nelson, where he superintended the grading of the streets of the city, and according to his plans the government wharf was built, and the court house and other public buildings erected. He was also the architect for the banks of Montreal and British Columbia, and of the Houston building, now known as the Bigelow block.

No more lasting piece of civil and architectual engineering work than the building of the Hall Mines smelter exists in West Kootenay, and when the Hall Mines Company, Ltd., decided to built the smelter, the drafting of the plans and the superintendence of construction was entrusted to Mr. Hodgins, and it must be said that for its size and capacity, this smelter is the most complete in the province.

While doing a large business as architect for private individuals, Mr. Hodgins still retains his commission as civil engineer and architect to the government. He is the architect of the new provincial jail, now under construction. All government work for the district is under his supervision, and he is also inspector of government roads and highways.

One of the latest new buildings of the buildings of the city, erected according to the plans of Mr. Hodgins, is the Mara block. It is the finest and most imposing and ornamental building in the city, being built of red and white pressed prick, with ornamental panel columns.

As the designer of so many of the substantial buildings of the city, Mr. Hodgins is thoroughly identified with the prosperity of Nelson, and is highly esteemed, not alone as a leading contributor to the modern architecture of the city, but as a prominent and valued citizen as well.

A. L. McKILLOP.

Assayer.

It has come to be recognized that the successful miner must have scientific as well as practical knowledge, and it is as plainly evident that the scientific expert is no less in need of practical experience. Time was, not so many years ago, that mines were bought and sold without either buyer or seller having any clear conception of even the probable value of the property. That is now all changed, and so important has the opinion of an expert become, that it would be difficult to decide whether, in a majority of instances, the prospective buyer or the seller is more anxious to have the benefit of the testimony of science.

Mr. McKillop, a gentleman most thoroughly versed in metallurgy and analytical chemistry, and who is also the subject of this sketch, is a native of Scotland, but came to this country when a child, with his parents. His early education was acquired in the public schools of Montreal, after which he entered the Queen's University, from which he graduated with the degree of B. A. Having been since boyhood deeply interested in the science of chemistry, it was but natural he should choose as his life work a vocation in which his favorite study would be of use. He decided, therefore, on graduation, to take up the sciences of metallurgy and assaying, and took a special course in these branches at the McGill University at Montreal.

After travelling through the various mining districts of Canada and British Columbia for some time, in search of further information in his profession, and to perfect himself in his chosen sciences. He finally located in Nelson in the year 1895, where he established himself in an eligibly located laboratory, thoroughly equipped for the practice of analytical chemistry and assaying.

Upon locating in Nelson Mr. McKillop met with a hearty welcome in business and mining circles, and soon built up an extensive and valuable clientage with mine operaters, prospectors and others. He examines and reports on mines and prospects, gives proper treatment for ores, and does a general assay and expert business, making a specialty of contract work. In the matter of prices Mr. McKillop does not compete with many of the assayers of the district. He believes that the people want thorough, conscienscious, trustworthy and experienced work, and are willing to pay a fair remuneration for such.

NELSON BLACKSMITHING CO.

H. A. Prosser, Prop.

No other single branch of the mechanic trades is so closely indentified with mining and the development of a mining country as that of blacksmithing. It is therefore the rule that mining camps have first-class mechanics in this trade. Mining blacksmiths to be up to the demand, must be able to make anything in iron or steel that is ordered by the prospector, the miner, the mill or the smelter. That is just what Mr. H. A. Prosser, proprietor of the Nelson Blacksmithing Company's shop claims to do, and to do it well.

This shop is one of the oldest in the district. The business was purchased by Mr. Prosser in August of the present year. The shop is one of the most completely equipped with tools and material for mine and general blacksmithing, horseshoeing and wagon making in the Kootenays. It is fitting that Nelson, being the centre of trade and business for so large and rich a mining section, should have the best of everything, and it is gratifying to state that this shop and the manner in which it is conducted are all that can be desired.

H. A. Prosser is a native of New York having been born in Yates county that state, in 1850. He came west in 1878, and to British Columbia in 1896. He was in business for a time in Rossland, but having wisely decided that Nelson will continue to be the financial and trade centre of West Kootenay, he determined to establish a permanent business here. Mr. Prosser has purchased property here, has already a good business, and will make Nelson his future home.

Remember, the Nelson Blacksmithing Company makes anything.

A. C. BUCHANAN & CO.

The modern attractive grocery store, with its thousand delicacies, gathered from every country and clime, has been developed within the last quarter of a century, and almost within the last decade. It is almost unknown, except in cities of large population, and its coming may be said to mark an era in a city's growth.

The fine modern store which makes the subject of this sketch, had its

beginning in February, 1896, and it would not be too much to say that it was a large enterprise at the beginning but it has grown with the growth of Nelson and the widening of its trade, until it is now one of the largest of the kind in the Kootenays. The business was established by Messrs. A. C. Buchanan and E. S. Mabee, but it has been continually under the able and efficient management of Mr. Buchanan. Mr. C. J. Wilson, late of Ontario, has recently purchased an interest in the business, which continues to be conducted under the style of A. C. Buchanan & Co., and under the joint management of Buchanan & Wilson.

This store is more than a first-class wholesale and retail grocery store. It is a modern grocery, provision and queensware establishment, where the housewife or caterer for the restaurant or hotel can find the best of everything that goes to make up the supplies of the larder, and, as well of the provisions of the camp. In the crockery department, which, in itself, would do credit to a separate store, there is displayed everything in the way of queensware, from the finest and most elaborate dinner sets, in Dresden china, to the modest, humble crockery used in camp, and the stock is chosen from importations from England, France, Germany, and the United States, with special reference to the known wants of its patrons. This house also carries one of the most complete stocks of bar goods in British Columbia, besides an extensive line of American lamps and glass goods.

Mr. Buchanan though not brought up to mercantile business, has shown by his success that he is an inborn merchant. The amount, variety, and quality of goods carried in stock, the attractive manner in which they are displayed, the courteous attention shown to patrons, and the careful, painstaking manner in which they are served, warrant us in saying that this is one of the most pleasant places to trade in Nelson.

Mr. Buchanan, the active member of the firm, was born in Nova Scotia, in 1865. He was educated at Sydney, Canada, and previous to coming to Nelson he taught school for four years at Vernon. Mr. Buchanan stands well in trade circles and is popular not only as a merchant, but as a citizen as well.

H. E. HALL, D. D. S.

H. E. Hall, Doctor of Dental Surgery, established his office in Nelson since the beginning of the present year. He has a fine suite of rooms in the new Broken Hill building, and has already an excellent practice among the best people of Nelson.

Dentistry, as practiced a few years ago, has become a thing of the past. Then the only relief for the aching tooth was by the use of the forceps. But dentistry has kept pace with the other sciences, and in the light of present knowledge the indiscriminate extraction of teeth may be justly called malpractice. Dr. Hall is especially skilled in preservative dentistry, and makes a specialty of crown and bridge work and gold fillings. He is especially skilled in replanting teeth, and ranks among the leading dentists of British Columbia.

H. E. Hall, D. D. S., is a native of the province of Ontario. He has been a resident of British Columbia since 1867, and has practiced his profession both in New Westminster and Kamloops, and came from the latter place to Nelson. He is in the true sense a thoroughly scientific dentist, as he has had both study and practice. He is a graduate of the Philadelphia, Pa., College of Dentistry, in the class of 1892. His alma mater is celebrated as the greatest dental college in the world, and it may be added that it was the first dental college in the world. The new world is the birthplace of modern dentistry, and students come from the old world to attend its colleges.

We could pay pay no higher tribute to Dr. Hall's skill than in repeating that he holds a diploma from the greatest dental college in the world that he keeps fully abreast of the profession in all its discoveries and inventions, and that his office is thoroughly equipped with the most modern and perfect instruments and appliances of his profession. The skilled dentist only can give diseased teeth scientific treatment and preserve them.

H. J. EVANS & CO.

Importing and Wholesale Merchants.

No better evidence could be desired of Nelson's advantageous position as a trade centre and distributing point for the great mining section of the Kootenays than in the character and commercial standing of its wholesale merchants and firms. H. J. Evans & Company's business was established in Nelson in July 1896, and it is but justice to the house to say that it was immediately accorded a prominent place among the leading wholesale houses of the Kootenays.

H. J. Evans & Company are wholesale dealers, in carlots and less quantities, in cement, fire brick, blacksmith coal, coke, steel mining rails, sewer pipe, etc., and in fine imported liquors, wines, ales, cigars, etc. The firm at present has the contract to furnish the material for the Nelson water works plant, as well as the contract for the material required in the Nelson sewerage system, and has, also, large contracts with the West Kootenay Power & Light Company. Its trade in mine and blacksmith supplies is large, and extends to every point and mining camp commercially tributary to Nelson. The wholesaling of liquors, wines, ales, etc., is an important specialty, and a very fine line of imported goods is carried in stock and sold in original packages.

The name of Evans is too well known in trade and financial circles of British Columbia to need mention. H. J. Evans came to the province from London, England, and from Vancouver to Nelson. His immediate and permanent business success in Nelson, while no less due to his honorable methods of business, and to his sending a traveling representative into the different towns and camps of the Kootenays, than to the great and increasing demand for the leading staples in which he deals, argues well for the future of Nelson and its wholesale trade.

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

No better evidence of the natural advantages of Nelson as the trade center for the Kootenays could be desired than is found in this great corporation having established a branch of its business here.

The history of the Hudson's Bay Company forms a conspicuous, romantic, and heroic part of the history of North America. The stockholders in the company were described over two centuries ago, in their charter granted by the British Crown, as "The Governor and company of adventurers of England, trading in Hudson's Bay." Those times furnished an abundance of men of brawn, daring, and shrewdness; but it required intellectual calibre far above the average to conceive and carry out the vast projects which made the achievements of the Hudson's Bay Company the marvel of two hemispheres and two centuries.

When traders were sent out to barter for furs they were confronted by obstacles which had not been taken into account in the organization of the undertaking. Furs, skins, and peltries there were in abundance; but in their efforts to barter for them the Company's traders were met with as many strange tongues as there were tribes of Indians inhabiting the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific and the valleys of the interior. In this dilemma, the Governor and Company, with the aid of scholars and linguists, did that, the like of which was never done in any other trading company in the world's history. It caused to be invented a language for the use of its agents with all the Indians of North America. While this language was in preparation, chains of posts were being built from Hudson's Bay to the Straits of Fuca and to Quebec on the St. Lawrence.

The Company's men were trained and disciplined in a manner worthy of an invading army; and such they were but they were an army of traders; and, while brave to a fault, were never permitted to strike except in self defence, or to succor the weak and oppressed.

The business of the Hudson's Bay Company has changed with the passage of time, from the greatest fur trading company of the day, trading for the most part with the wild Indians and half-civilized trappers, it has become a great mercantile company, supplying the needs of civilized life over thousands of square miles of territory where once it had traded only with savages.

Recognizing the great and valuable privileges it had enjoyed for nearly two centuries, the Company, after considerable negotiations, surrendered to

Canada its valuable franchise, including its claim to land, upon receiving a cash consideration and a valuable land subsidy. In this action of the company, was manifested a foresight as commendable as that of its founders. Civilization had set its march towards the possessions so long occupied by the Company, and the management foresaw the prosperity of its enterprizes in shaping them to the needs of civilized life.

The space accorded to this article is altogether insufficient for even a brief mention of all the important interests on this continent still held by this great Company. It must suffice to say that the Hudson's Bay Company still maintains the largest general stores in the Northwest, and that its Nelson store is, in the variety of goods carried, with the exception of hardware and drygoods, fairly representative of its many branches. The Nelson branch was established in May, 1892. The manager, Mr. G. R. Robson, has been in the employ of the Company since 1885. He was ordered to Nelson from Frazer river in 1892 to take charge of the Company's branch, and has since continued its business manager here.

Mr. Robson was born in the north of England, but was many years in British Columbia. He has, since becoming a citizen of Nelson, thoroughly indentified himself with the interests of the great mining section of which Nelson is the trade and financial centre. He accepted a place as a member of the first school board of Nelson, serving from 1893 to 1897, and in many ways manifested a loyal interest in the affairs of the community.

THE CLUB HOTEL.

E. J. Curran.

The Club Hotel was opened to the public in June of the present year, under the management of Mr. E. J. Curran, than whom British Columbia has no more popular and obliging boniface.

No expense has been spared to make everything connected with the Club especially attractive, and it is evident that its growth from a hotel of very ordinary pretensions, under previous management, when it was known as the Stanley House, to a place in the front ranks, under the new management, is founded upon real merit. Immediately upon assuming control of the Club, a few months ago, Mr. Curran renovated the entire building, and made such additions and alterations as were necessary to make the house one at which the most fastidious might be pleased to stop. At the same time the house was newly furnished throughout. Even at the present writing additions and improvements are being perfected by which the large room now being used as a dining room will be converted into a billiard room, and in an extension the dining room will be located, in a spacious, well lighted and pleasant room.

That department of the hotel in which its genial proprietor takes special pride, is the dining room, and here Mr. Curran states that he intends to maintain the finest cuisine of any hotel in the city. To that end he employs a chef of more than ordinary skill. Add to the best provisions and delicacies that the market affords, the best culinary preparation and obliging service, and we have a dining room of which any hotel might be proud. It must not be forgotten that the bar is equipped in an up-to-date manner, with wines and liquors of the leading vintage. The Club has thirty-four guest rooms, all neatly and cosily furnished, and lighted by electricity. Elegant baths, with hot and cold water are also provided free for the use of guests.

Mr. Curran is a native of Manitoba. He has had twelve years experience in hotel management, and is thoroughly acquainted with every detail of a first-class hostlery. Previous to taking charge of the Club he held the position of steward to the Nelson Club, a social organization of the leading professional and business men of the city.

The Club besides being a favorite among commercial men and the traveling public caters also to the wants of permanent guests, of which it enjoys the patronage of many of the leading people of the city.

THE CLARKE HOTEL,

Mrs. E. C. Clarke, Prop.

There is probably no city of its size in all British Columbia that is better equipped for the accommodation of the traveling public than the city of Nelson, and the Clarke Hotel, though not as large as some of its competitors, is their equal in all other respects.

The fame of the Clarke has been a growth, and is founded upon real merit. The location is one of the best in the city, being only half a block from Baker street, the principal business thoroughfare of the city, and yet so elevated that the house commands a superb view of the town, of the celebrated mines in the surrounding hills and of the beautiful Kootenay river.

The Clarke Hotel was built in 1890, and was more or less successfully conducted until June 1896, when Mrs. E. E. Clarke, a hotel woman of wide experience became its proprietor. With the advent of Mrs. Clarke the building was thoroughly renovated, and at once made rapid strides toward public favor, until today it stands on a parallel with the other first-class houses of the city.

The Clarke has thirty-two rooms for the accommodation of guests, and they are all neatly and cosily furnished. Too much cannot be said in praise of the excellent table provided at the Clarke, where everything the market affords is set before the guests. Every department is under the management of a person skilled in that particular part of hotel work, and the proprietor has superintending care over all. Mrs. Clarke is her own steward, and says that the best only is good enough for her guests.

There are, of course, other hotels in Nelson maintained on a more elaborate scale than the Clarke, but it cannot be claimed that there is another where more homelike comforts and a quiet enjoyment of them can be obtained. This house has also the distinction of being the first class family hotel of Nelson, and of having for its patrons, especially at its famous Sunday dinners, many of the first people of the city.

Mrs. Clarke was for ten years the proprietor of the Royal Hotel at Calgary, and by her long experience it is hardly necessary to add that she leaves nothing to be desired on the part of her patrons that can be anticipated for their comfort or convenience, and in assuming and conducting successfully so important an enterprise, Mrs. Clarke has manifested a grasp of business affairs both gratifying and surprising to her many friends. Mrs. Clarke is a womanly woman of education and culture, with the ready and tender sympathies of a mother, and a tact and judgment in business affairs unusual in her sex.

W. F. TEETZEL & CO.,

Druggists.

The pharmacy owned and conducted by W. F. Teetzel had its beginning more than six years ago, when Nelson was little more than a cluster of tents, and has become recognized as the leader in the drug business in the Kootenays. The stock of drugs and medicines carried includes everything usually found in a drug store; and everything known to the trade and in demand in this section, in the line of patent and prepared remedies, toilet articles, druggists' sundries, etc., is kept.

Putting up prescriptions is an important feature of the business, and it is worthy of note that all prescriptions are submitted to close inspection before being registered or filled. This department is provided with drugs of the very highest grade of purity, and is in charge of two skilled and competent prescription clerks.

Besides being a leading druggist, Mr. Teetzel is the only large dealer in assayers' supplies, outside of Montreal, in Canada, and it is not too much to say his business in this department exceeds that of his Montreal competitor. This is in part due to his favorable location, but more to his ability to compete in prices and to the fact that he handles only the best goods. He is an importer and jobber in assayers' furnaces, crusibles, scorrifiers, muffles, chemicals and chemical apparatus, and is British Columbia agent for the Denver Fire Clay Company.

Another feature of the business which has made Mr. Teetzel's drug store a favorite resort for the modern disciples of Isaac Walton, is his unsurpassed stock of fishing tackle. Nothing has been omitted in the selection of this stock, and the angler who cannot here find tackle to suit his fancy must be indeed hard to please.

Mr. Teetzel's salesroom is eligibly located at the corner of Baker and Josephine streets. In the elegance of its fittings and the attractive manner

in which the stock is displayed, this store is the peer of any pharmacy in the Kootenays. A beautiful soda fountain, the finest in Nelson, adorns the entrance, and the delicious ice cream sodas here served prove no less irresistable to the fair sex and their escorts than the fine line of imported cigars, which fill an adjoining case, are to connoisseurs of the weed.

W. F. Teetzel is a native of the province of Ontario. He has been for the past fourteen years a resident of the Kootenays, having come to the mountains of this province before the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He has been a citizen of Nelson since May, 1891, and when the town was incorporated, less than a year ago, was chosen to serve the city as one of her first aldermen. He is no less esteemed as an honored and respected citizen than as a prominent merchant and skilled pharmacist, and it is not too much to say his ready support of all worthy public enterprises has contributed much to the development of our mines and the prosperity of the city.

W. J. G. DICKSON,

Real Estate Agent--Mining and Stock Broker.

In no other line of business is it more important that known and established integrity of character outains in the management than in the business of the agent and broker. In this connection it is gratifying to note that W. J. G. Dickson is both well and favorably known in connection with the real estate business of Nelson, and with mining interests and stocks. His knowledge of real estate values has been gained through the transaction of a large and constantly increasing business of a year and a half of Nelson's most active era in real estate transfers and building. He is agent for Addition A of Nelson, and also of a Nelson syndicate of investors, owning both business and resident property. He has some desirable suburban property for sale, and, as well, valuable timber tracts and ranch properties. All these properties are for sale at desirable prices to investors and upon favorable terms.

Mr. Dickson handles mining properties and makes investments for clients. He is one of the few brokers who have not permitted their names to be used as an officer or director of any company, preferring to be in a position to act perfectly impartial and to estimate values solely upon output of mines or known showing prospects and development work being done. His opportunities for keeping informed respecting the mining industry of the Kootenays are unsurpassed, and his connection with eastern and English capitalists give him special opportunities for publishing the desirability of British Columbia mining property.

W. J. G. Dickson was born in Scotland and educated in the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He has been something of a wanderer, having been for a time in Africa, and nine years in Australia. He came to Canada in 1891 and settled in the Northwest Territory, where, at the town of Edmonton, he engaged in the real estate and brokerage business. He came to Nelson in April, 1896, and opening an office the following month, soon became identified with, and a leader in, the real estate and mining and stock brokerage business of Nelson and the great mining district of which this is the financial and trade center.

WEST KOOTENAY BUTCHERING COMPANY.

C. Traves, Manager.

The business of the West Kootenay Butchering Company was established in 1894. It is sufficiently indicative of the volume of business done by the house to state that there is sold at wholesale from its refrigerators, and at retail, over its counters, annually, six hundred beeves, two thousand eight hundred mutton, sheep and lambs, over one hundred veal calves, and more than one hundred fat hogs. This is also a fish, game and oyster market, and the best of everything is on hand at all seasons.

The West Kootenay Butchering Company has its own slaughtering and packing houses, provided with all the modern conveniences for the cleaning, handling and preparing of meats for the market. Both market and packing house are supplied with refrigerators and cold storage rooms, built in accordance with the latest scientific authority, and no expense is spared in keeping thoroughly abreast of the times.

E. C. Traves, founder of the West Kootenay Butchering Company, is a Nelson pioneer of 1890, and has been, from the beginning, one of Nelson's staunchest supporters. Besides having successfully conducted all his private enterprises, he has taken an active interest in association with others, and has always shown his supreme confidence in Nelson as the financial and trade center of West Kootenay. He is president of the Broken Hill Mining & Investment Company, and as such he is one of the builders of the fine modern block now under construction on Baker and Ward streets.

E. C. Traves was born in the State of Wisconsin, U. S., but his parents having moved to London, Ont., when he was one year of age, he has lived nearly all his life in Canada. He came from Ontario to British Columbia in 1890, and has since made Nelson his home and place of business. Mr. Traves is widely and favorably known in financial, business and mining circles, and is liberal in support of all worthy enterprises calculated to promote the upbuilding of Nelson and the great mining industry of which the city is the most important trade center.

SPENCER & BALL.

Sheet Metal Workers.

The sheet metal worker is so closely indentified with the mining industry and the building trades as to have become absolutely necessary to both, and in modern buildings of the better class sheet metal enters largely into the adornments as well as the necessary features of their structure. The present season of building has therefore been a busy one for the sheet metal workers of Nelson.

William G. Spencer and William Ball are all around sheet metal workers. They are tinners, roofers, galvanized iron cornice and skylight manufacturers, and makers of hot air furnace pipe, ventilator pipe for mines, and of everything in the sheet metal line entering into the various industries of a city or mining community.

Mr. Spencer established the business here in 1893. The present firm was formed in February 1897. The shop is equipped with all the necessary modern machine tools used in sheet metal work, and the firm keeps a stock of materials in supply adequate to the needs of its trade and its contracts. The firm employs skilled plumbers as well as metal workers, and conducts a plumbing business, and makes a specialty of furnace heating. The firm is not an agent for any special furnace, but will supply any style its patrons may wish and put the same in place.

Mr. Ball came to West Kootenay from Chatham, Ont., in 1895. He is well known as an excellent mechanic and good citizen.

Mr. Spencer is a native of the Prov- of Nova Scotia. He has been five years a resident of British Columbia and of Nelson, and is well and widely known in mining and building circles as one of Nelson's most competent, trustworthy and responsible contractors.

THOMSON STATIONARY CO., LTD.

Thomas Morley, Manager.

The Thomson Stationary Company, of Vancouver, is one of the largest mercantile houses of the kind in the Northwest. Its Nelson branch was established in April, 1896, by Thomas Morley, who has an interest in the business and is manager of the Nelson house. The business of the Company includes importing and wholesale merchandising. The stock of miscellaneous and library books is very complete, especially in works suited to school and private libraries, as well as in holiday books of every description in their season, and a full line of newspapers, magazines and periodicals is handled.

In text-books this house is recognized as headquarters for West Kootenay. There is no other house in the province that handles so large and complete a stock of text-books on mineralogy, assaying and smelting. The Company is agent for the Caligraph writing machine, Empire Typewriter, Edison Mimeograph, Parker Fountain Pen, Esterbrook's Pens, Spencerian Pens, Stephen's Inks and Stafford's Inks.

In office supplies the Company has the largest stock ever brought into the Province. This line includes all kinds of filing devices, inks, mucilage, pens, pen holders, letter and pencil tablets, typewriter and mimeograph supplies, etc., and is very complete in blank

books for offices and mining companies.

In fancy stationary the stock and assortment includes drafting and mathematical instruments, crayons, tube paints, water colors, drawing papers, etc. A very complete line of sporting and sportsmen's goods is also carried. A very large stock of toys is now arriving for the holiday trade.

The stock also includes musical instruments, sheet music, and musical goods of all kinds. This department is presided over by Mr. F. J. Painton, an accomplished musician. The stock in toto occupies one of the largest double salesrooms in Nelson, and a commodious warehouse in the rear for surplus stock.

The firm name, Thomson Stationary Company, is known in every mining camp and hamlet of the Kootenays, and the Company's trade extends to the utmost limit of the territory commercially tributary to Nelson.

Mr. Morley learned the paper and stationary trades in London, England. He came to British Columbia in 1890, and at once became indentified with the trade in Vancouver. He was for a time in the employ of Marshall, McCrea & Company, and in 1894 accepted a responsible position with the Thomson Stationary Company. Mr. Morley devotes his entire time to the management of the Company's Nelson house, and is esteemed no less for his courteous, obliging manner than for his correct business methods.

ROBERT R. HEDLEY.

There is well merited compensation in the fact that while the west has been from its earlist history commercially and financially tributary to the East, the East has been as constantly contributing to the West an annually increasing quota of the flower of its young men, its trained scholars and scientists. This is especially observable in the considerable number of skilled metallurgists of British Columbia. Among those who have chosen the Kootenays for their field of labor, none are better or more favorably known than the present superintendent of the Hall Mines, Limited, smelter.

Robert R. Hedley was born at Amherstburg, Ont., and was educated in Halifax, Nova Scotia and at the Lehigh University, Pa., U. S. A., where he took an elective course in the science of metallurgy. Before entering this celebrated school he had been for three years in the employ of the Orford Copper & Sulphur Company, whose field of operations include Canada and the United States, and had acquired a practical knowledge of the various methods employed by that company in the treatment of ores. On leaving the University in 1884, he was again employed by this company for another three years, at the end of which time he went to Venezuela to take the management of a large smelter, where he remained two years. From Venezuela he went to Mexico where he was employed in his profession as metallurgist for five years, and until his return to Canada. He came direct from Mexico to British Columbia in 1896. His first employment here was as manager of the Pilot Bay smelter. Subsequent to his employment at Pilot Bay, Mr. Hedley spent over a year in looking over the different mining sections of British Columbia, doing engineering work occasionally, and inspecting the mines of all sections of the Kootenays.

Mr. Hedley was installed in his present position as manager of the Hall Mines, Limited, smelter, on September first of the present year. His selection for the position by a corporation so conspicuous for its conservatism is no less a compliment to Mr. Hedley as a man of high character then as a metallurgist of more than ordinary ability and experience.

MINERS' LIVERY & FEED STABLE

Patterson & Steeper, Props.

The Miners' Livery and Feed Stables now owned by Messrs. G. W. Patterson and H. T. Steeper, were purchased by them from James Madden, who established them about one year ago, during September of the present year.

Previous to purchasing this business the two present owners were engaged in the feed and grain business in this city. About eighteen months ago they both came from Spokane, where Mr. Patterson creditably acquitted himself in a responsible position with Messrs. Herrin & Company, wholesale commission merchants, having been in their employ for over six years. Mr. Steeper, for five years previous to coming to Nelson was in the employ of the Spokane Gas Company.

The stables of Messrs. Patterson & Steeper contain about twenty head of horses, suitable for saddle and for packing. The business is conducted in first class style as a livery, feed and sales stable and everything is conveniently arranged to make it a success. There are a number of very fine horses in the stable, all of which have been selected with special reference to the needs of the trade. In connection with the livery business the firm will carry for sale, hay, grain and feed, which they buy in wholesale quantities, enabling them to quote the lowest prices on these comodities to their customers.

Packing supplies to the camps and mines is one of the most important industries of the Kootenays, and among those engaged in it in this district none are better prepared for the work than this firm.

Having invested their entire capital in this business, and having property apart from the stable, the two gentlemen constituting this firm have settled in Nelson with a determination to become thoroughly indentified with the interests of the city, and in this they will succeed, as they are eminently capable of conducting their business in a successful manner, and we predict that with the same fair and honorable dealing that has characterized them heretofore, they will continue to merit the enviable reputation which they have gained among the business men of Nelson.

J. J. WALKER,

Watchmaker and Jeweler.

Many of the now large business establishments of Nelson began in a small way. Young men have come to Nelson with small capital but with a determination to succeed, and with faith in Nelson as the trade center of West Kootenay. Acting upon this conviction they have staked their all in business, and as a result, many of them are today among the solid and influential business men of the city.

Among those who have recently started in business with a small stock, increasing it as trade demanded, may be mentioned Mr. J. J. Walker, who came to Nelson from Rossland a few months ago. He has been in British Columbia for two years, coming to the province from Manitoba. He is a native of New York city, where he learned the watchmaking trade in the establishment of a famous horologist. He is therefore a practical watchmaker and jeweler.

It may be truthfully said that in no line of business is the average purchaser more dependent upon the honesty of the dealer than when he or she buys a fine jewel or watch. Not one man in twenty knows anything more about a watch than its external appearance, and the average purchaser knows even less of precious stones. How important then that our jewelers should be men of character and business standing.

The stock of goods carried by Mr. Walker has been selected with a view to supplying the wants of the people. Besides a very fine line of American watches, sterling silver and plated ware and fashionable jewelry of every discription, he has a very complete line of optical goods, and is provided with improved scientific appliances for testing abnormal conditions of sight. He also takes orders for special designs of badges and other jewelry, which are manufactured by skilled artists.

For the holiday trade Mr. Walker has selected a very complete stock of goods which will be displayed in an attractive manner, and the demands of all will be served to complete satisfaction, at prices beyond competition.

ELLIOTT & HALE,

Boat Liverymen and Builders.

Among the many attractions of Nelson as a place of residence, the beautiful Kootenay river and lake are not the least. With open water for navigation all the year around, and the delightful boating and fishing, more than half the year, the question of desirable boats to hire becomes an important item to be considered. Fortunately, Nelson has, in Messrs. Elliott & Hale, a firm of boat liverymen and builders possessing all the requirements as to ability to supply the public with pleasure boats,

outing boats and canoes for hire, and capable of building boats of all descriptions, after the best designs and of the best workmanship, at brief notice.

H. C. Elliott and G. W. Hale are experienced shipwrights and boat builders. They succeeded to their present business as proprietors of Nelson's only boat house and ship yard by purchase from H. M. Foster, in 1895. Their five floating boat houses give ample space for their shops and the housing of between thirty and forty boats, and form a conspicuous feature of Nelson's water front. It has been said of Nelson that it is short on wheeled vehicles. This is true, for in the present primitive condition of our roads few wheeled vehicles are needed; but it may be added that Nelson is long on boats, and that Messrs. Elliott & Hale are two of Nelson's most popular citizens. Young people of all ages are their patrons, and to all they are alike courteous and obliging to a degree that is appreciated, and that is often the occasion for favorable comment.

H. C. Elliott was born in the Province of Nova Scotia, but he has been ten years in British Columbia. G. W. Hale is a native of Ontario, and came to British Columbia in 1877. Both are skilled mechanics in their special line. They design and build boats for clubs and for individual patrons, and are responsible for all their contracts.

The firm has now an 80 foot tug boat under construction which will be owned and operated by Captain Angus Campbell and Elliott & Hale. The boat will be completed and running by June, 1898.

NELSON HARDWARE COMPANY.

J. D. McCreath, Prop.

Nelson Hardware Company is a trade name of which J. D. McCreath is the registered owner. The business is so clearly indicated by the name it bears that it is unnecessary to say more of the stock than that it is very complete in the lines of shelf and builders' hardware, granite and tinware, paints, oils, stoves, ranges and furnaces, and especially complete in miners' supplies of every description usually sold by the leading hardware houses of British Columbia.

The well known "Warrior" stoves are leaders, furnaces are made a specialty of the business, and the house has a tin and sheet iron shop in connection with it, where furnace pipe is manufactured to any dimensions desired. Experienced furnace-men are also in the employ of the house, and all furnaces sold are put in place ready for use.

The Nelson Hardware Company also carries a complete line of fire arms, including rifles, shot guns and revolvers of standard manufacture, and ammunition of every description. An excellent line of fishing tackle is also kept in stock.

This house was established by Mr. E. J. Ritchie, in the fall of 1896, and began business under very favorable auspices. The present owner, Mr. J. D. McCreath, purchased the stock and business in the present year, and began its management under still more desirable conditions. The busy building season of 1897 was just beginning, and with the stock in hand at the time of his purchase of the business, and with the new goods he added to the stock soon after, he has been able to supply a constantly large and increasing demand for builders' hardware, from the time of his purchasing the business to the present writing, and, as well, to supply the usual large demand for miners' supplies and general hardware.

J. D. McCreath is a native of Hamilton, Ont., where he was for a number of years in the employ of Copp Brothers, the machinery manufacturers. He was subsequently a commercial traveler for a leading implement and machinery house and coming in that capacity to British Columbia from season to season became interested in mining and purchasing an interest in the Hamilton & Rossland Gold Mining Company, at Ymir, accepted the position of manager of the company's mines and properties, a position which he still retains.

Mr. McCreath's experience as the manager of mining property, no less than as a commercial traveler, has given him a practical knowledge of the wants of miners and a mining country. He is popular alike in mining circles, with the building trades and the general public. He devotes his personal attention to conducting the business of his house, and enjoys a large and constantly growing trade.